

THE LONDON LITERARY GAZETTE;

AND

Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences, &c.

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No. 633.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1829.

PRICE 8d.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The Misfortunes of Elphin. By the Author of "Headlong Hall." 12mo. pp. 240. London, 1829. T. Hookham.

THOUGH the author of *Headlong Hall* is an especial favourite with us, we feel particularly obliged to Mr. Hookham for having presented us with his new performance in a single volume; for, with any thing like tolerable management, it might have been stretched into three, if not four, weighty tomes. The writer also merits our thanks for his abstinence from elongation; with the whole Cambrian mythology, romance, and history, or supposed history, at his beck, to have thus limited himself, is a rare example of virtuous self-denial, for which we take upon ourselves, in the name of the public, to express our warmest gratitude. The consequence has been, that instead of a prolix and tiresome compilation from the rubbish of antiquity, patched with the heterogeneous folly of modern invention, we have a playful and satirical *jeu d'esprit*;—a pleasant amusement for two or three hours, instead of a musty and unrepasable mass of trash and impertinence.

The story is of the beginning of the sixth century; but its application is to the nineteenth, except where the humour of the author has led him to sketch, in a happy tone, the manners of the ancient Britons at the period of the Round Table. When Ulster Pendragon was sovereign of the country, Gwrythno was one of its petty monarchs, under the title of King of Ceredigion. "The most valuable portion of his dominions was the great plain of Gwaelod, an extensive tract of level land, stretching along that part of the sea-coast which now belongs to the counties of Merioneth and Cardigan. This district was populous and highly cultivated. It contained sixteen fortified towns, superior to all the towns and cities of the Cymry, excepting Caer Lleon upon Usk; and, like Caer Lleon, they bore, in their architecture, their language, and their manners, vestiges of past intercourse with the Roman lords of the world. It contained also one of the three privileged ports of the isle of Britain, which was called the Port of Gwrythno. This port, we may believe if we please, had not been unknown to the Phœnicians and Carthaginians, when they visited the island for metal, accommodating the inhabitants, in return, with luxuries which they would not otherwise have dreamed of, and which they could very well have done without; of course, in arranging the exchange of what they denominated equivalents, imposing on their simplicity, and taking advantage of their ignorance, according to the approved practice of civilised nations; which they called imparting the blessings of Phœnician and Carthaginian light.—An embankment of massy stone protected this lowland country from the sea, which was said, in traditions older than the embankment, to have, in occasional spring tides, paid short but unwelcome visits to the interior inhabitants,

and to have, by slow aggressions, encroached considerably on the land. To prevent the repetition of the first of these inconveniences, and to check the progress of the second, the people of Gwaelod had built the stony rampart, which had withstood the shock of the waves for centuries, when Gwrythno began his reign. Gwrythno, like other kings, found the business of governing too light a matter to fill up the vacancy of either his time or his head, and took to the more solid pursuits of harping and singing; not forgetting feasting, in which he was glorious; nor hunting, wherein he was mighty. His several pursuits composed a very harmonious triad. The chase conducted to the good cheer of the feast, and to the good appetite which consumed it; the feast inspired the song; and the song gladdened the feast, and celebrated the chase. Gwrythno and his subjects went on together very happily. They had little to do with him but to pay him revenue, and he had little to do with them but to receive it. Now and then they were called on to fight for the protection of his sacred person, and for the privilege of paying revenue to him rather than to any of the kings in his vicinity,—a privilege of which they were particularly tenacious.

While enjoying himself in his palace, the king, who was not fond of the sea, intrusted the charge of his coast to lieutenants; and the hint of our marvellous heroes might have been taken from his policy.

"Watch-towers were erected along the embankment, and watchmen were appointed to guard against the first approaches of damage or decay. The whole of these towers, and their companies of guards, were subordinate to a central castle, which commanded the sea-port already mentioned, and wherein dwelt Prince Seithyn ap Seithyn Saidi, who held the office of Arglwyd Gwrawarcheidwad yr Argae Breninawl, which signifies, in English, Lord High Commissioner of Royal Embankment; and he executed it as a personage so denominated might be expected to do; he drank the profits, and left the embankment to his deputies, who left it to their assistants, who left it to itself. The condition of the head, in a composite as in a simple body, affects the entire organisation to the extremity of the tail, excepting that, as the tail in the figurative body usually receives the largest share in the distribution of punishment, and the smallest in the distribution of reward, it has the stronger stimulus to ward off evil, and the smaller supply of means to indulge in diversion; and it sometimes happens that one of the least regarded of the component parts of the said tail will, from a pure sense of duty, or an inveterate love of business, or an oppressive sense of enmity, or a development of the organ of order, or some other equally cogent reason, cheerfully undergo all the care and labour, of which the honour and profit will redound to higher quarters. Such a component portion of the Gwaelod high commission of royal embankment was Tethrin ap Tethral, who had the charge of a watch-tower where

the embankment terminated at the point of Mochres, in the high land of Arduwy. Tethrin kept his portion of the embankment in exemplary condition, and paced with daily care the limits of his charge; but one day, by some accident, he strayed beyond them, and observed symptoms of neglect that filled him with dismay. The circumstances induced him to proceed till his wanderings brought him round to the embankment's southern termination in the high land of Caredigion. He met with abundant hospitality at the towers of his colleagues, and at the castle of Seithynyn; he was supposed to be walking for his amusement; he was asked no questions, and he carefully abstained from asking any. He examined and observed in silence; and when he had completed his observations, he hastened to the palace of Gwrythno."

Not obtaining access to the king—a matter difficult at all times—Tethrin sought out his son, Prince Elphin, whose misfortunes confer a title on this work. But, previous to relating their proceedings, we ought to state that both king and prince had been mysteriously warned to "beware of the oppression of Gwaelod," i.e. *Gwen-Audic*, the white alluring one—the name of a mermaid, but used figuratively for the elemental power of the sea. This mermaid, it may be conjectured that Elphin, informed by Tethrin, thought it expedient to pay a visit of inspection to the worthy Lord high commissioner Seithynyn (for brevity's sake we omit the rest of his unpronounceable name). Their reception is a capital display of the character of that exalted and jovial functionary.

"The sun had sunk beneath the waves when they reached the castle of Seithynyn. The sound of the harp and the song saluted them as they approached it. As they entered the great hall, which was already blazing with torchlight, they found his highness, and his highness's household, convincing themselves and each other, with wine and wassail, of the excellence of their system of virtual superintendence; and the following jovial chorus broke on the ears of the visitors:

"The Crying of the Mead-Horn:

Fill the blue horn, the blue buffalo horn:

Natural is mead in the buffalo horn:

As the cuckoo in spring, as the lark in the morn,

So natural is mead in the buffalo horn.

As the cup of the flower to the bee when he sips,

Is the full cup of mead to the true Briton's lips:

From the flower-cups of summer, as field and on tree

Our mead-cups are filled by the vintager bee.

Seithynyn ap Seithyn, the generous, the bold,

Drinks the wine of the stranger from vessels of gold;

But we from the horn, the blue silver-rim'd horn,

Drink the ale and the mead in our fields that were born.

The ale-froth is white, and the mead sparkles bright;

They both smile apart, and with smiles they unite:

The mead from the flower, and the ale from the corn,

Smile, sparkle, and sing, in the buffalo horn.

The horn, the blue horn, cannot stand on its tip;

Its path is right on the head to the lip:

Though the bowl and the wine-cup our tables adorn,

More natural the draught from the buffalo horn.

But Seithynyn ap Seithyn, the generous, the bold,

Drinks the bright-flowing wine from the far-gleaming

gold:

The wine in the bowl by his lip that is worn,

Shall be glorious as mead in the buffalo horn.

The horns circle fast, but their fountains will last,
As the stream passes ever, and never is past:
Exhausted so quickly, replenished so soon,
They was and they *was* like the horns of the moon.
Fill high the blue horn, the blue buffalo horn:
Fill high the long silver-rim'd buffalo horn:
While the roof of the hall by our chorus is torn,
Fill, fill to the brim, the deep silver-rim'd horn.

"Elphin and Teithrin stood some time on the floor of the hall before they attracted the attention of Seithenyn, who, during the chorus, was tossing and flourishing his golden goblet. The chorus had scarcely ended when he noticed them, and immediately roared aloud, 'You are welcome, all four.' Elphin answered, 'We thank you: we are but two.' 'Two or four,' said Seithenyn, 'all is one. You are welcome all. When a stranger enters, the custom in other places is to begin by washing his feet. My custom is, to begin by washing his throat. Seithenyn ap Seithyn Saidi bids you welcome.' Elphin, taking the wine-cup, answered, 'Elphin ap Gwythno Garanhr thanks you.' Seithenyn started up. He endeavoured to straighten himself into perpendicularity, and to stand steadily on his legs. He accomplished half his object by stiffening all his joints but those of his ankles, and from these the rest of his body vibrated upwards with the inflexibility of a bar. After thus oscillating for a time, like an inverted pendulum, finding that the attention requisite to preserve his rigidity absorbed all he could collect of his dissipated energies, and that he required a portion of them for the management of his voice, which he felt a dizzy desire to wield with peculiar steadiness in the presence of the son of the king, he suddenly relaxed the muscles that perform the operation of sitting, and dropped into his chair like a plummet. He then, with a gracious gesticulation, invited Prince Elphin to take his seat on his right hand, and proceeded to compose himself into a dignified attitude, throwing his body back into the left corner of his chair, resting his left elbow on its arm, and his left cheek-bone on the middle of the back of his left hand, placing his left foot on a footstool, and stretching out his right leg as straight and as far as his position allowed. He had thus his right hand at liberty, for the ornament of his eloquence and the conduct of his liquor. Elphin seated himself at the right hand of Seithenyn. Teithrin remained at the end of the hall; on which Seithenyn exclaimed, 'Come on, man, come on! What if you be not the son of a king? you are the guest of Seithenyn ap Seithyn Saidi! The most honourable place to the most honourable guest, and the next most honourable place to the next most honourable guest; the least honourable guest above the most honourable inmate; and, where there are but two guests, be the most honourable who he may, the least honourable of the two is next in honour to the most honourable of the two, because they are no more but two; and where there are only two, there can be nothing between: therefore sit, and drink. *Gwin o eur: wine from gold.*"

We cannot quote so eloquent a speech as this, without recommending it to the study of many friends of ours, who are in the habit of emitting similar convivial sallies at taverns; its logic is undeniable, and it may serve as a model: but to our story. The prince having made some remarks on the insufficiency of the embankment, is thus answered by his host; and the application of the satire is too evident to need a comment:—

"Prince Seithenyn," said Elphin, "I have visited you on a subject of deep moment. Re-

ports have been brought to me, that the embankment, which has been so long intrusted to your care, is in a state of dangerous decay.' 'Decay,' said Seithenyn, 'is one thing, and danger is another. Every thing that is old must decay. That the embankment is old, I am free to confess; that it is somewhat rotten in parts, I will not altogether deny; that it is any the worse for that, I do most sturdily gainsay. It does its business well; it works well: it keeps out the water from the land, and it lets in the wine upon the high commission of embankment. Cup-bearer, fill. Our ancestors were wiser than we: they built it in their wisdom; and if we should be so rash as to try to mend it, we should only mar it.' 'The stone-work,' said Teithrin, 'is sapped and mined: the piles are rotten, broken, and dislocated: the floodgates and sluices are leaky and creaky.' 'That is the beauty of it,' said Seithenyn. 'Some parts of it are rotten, and some parts of it are sound.' 'It is well,' said Elphin, 'that some parts are sound; it were better that all were so.' 'So I have heard some people say before,' said Seithenyn; 'perverse people, blind to venerable antiquity: that very unamiable sort of people, who are in the habit of indulging their reason. But I say, the parts that are rotten give elasticity to those that are sound: they give them elasticity, elasticity, elasticity. If it were all sound, it would break by its own obstinate stiffness: the soundness is checked by the rottenness, and the stiffness is balanced by the elasticity. There is nothing so dangerous as innovation. See the waves in the equinoctial storms, dashing and clashing, roaring and pouring, spattering and battering, rattling and battling against it. I would not be so presumptuous as to say I could build any thing that would stand against them half an hour; and here this immortal old work—which God forbid the finger of modern mason should bring into jeopardy!—this immortal work has stood for centuries, and will stand for centuries more, if we let it alone. It is well: it works well: let well alone. Cup-bearer, fill. It was half rotten when I was born, and that is a conclusive reason why it should be three parts rotten when I die.' The whole body of the high commission roared approbation. 'And after all,' said Seithenyn, 'the worst that could happen would be the overflow of a spring-tide, for that was the worst that happened before the embankment was thought of; and, if the high water should come in, as it did before, the low water would go out again, as it did before. We should be no deeper in it than our ancestors were, and we could mend as easily as they could make.' 'The level of the sea,' said Teithrin, 'is materially altered.' 'The level of the sea!' exclaimed Seithenyn. 'Who ever heard of such a thing as altering the level of the sea? After the level of that bowl of wine before you, in which, as I sit here, I see a very ugly reflection of your very good-looking face. After the level of that: drink up the reflection: let me see the face without the reflection, and leave the sea to level itself.' 'Not to level the embankment,' said Teithrin. 'Good, very good,' said Seithenyn. 'I love a smart saying, though it hits at me. But whether yours is a smart saying or no, I do not very clearly see; and, whether it hits at me or no, I do not very sensibly feel. But all is one. Cup-bearer, fill.' 'I think,' pursued Seithenyn, looking as intently as he could at Teithrin ap Tathral, 'I have seen something very like you before. There was a fellow here the other day very like you: he stayed here some time; he would not talk;

he did nothing but drink: he used to drink till he could not stand, and then he went walking about the embankment. I suppose he thought it wanted mending; but he did not say any thing. If he had, I should have told him to embank his own throat, to keep the liquor out of that. That would have posed him: he could not have answered that: he would not have had a word to say for himself after that.' 'He must have been a miraculous person,' said Teithrin, 'to walk when he could not stand.' 'All is one for that,' said Seithenyn. 'Cup-bearer, fill.' 'Prince Seithenyn,' said Elphin, 'if I were not aware that wine speaks in the silence of reason, I should be astonished at your strange vindication of your neglect of duty, which I take shame to myself for not having sooner known and remedied. The wise bard has well observed, 'Nothing is done without the eye of the king.' I am very sorry,' said Seithenyn, 'that you see things in a wrong light; but we will not quarrel, for three reasons: first, because you are the son of the king, and may do and say what you please, without any one having a right to be displeased: second, because I never quarrel with a guest, even if he grows riotous in his cups: third, because there is nothing to quarrel about; and perhaps that is the best reason of the three; or rather the first is the best, because you are the son of the king; and the third is the second, that is, the second best, because there is nothing to quarrel about; and the second is nothing to the purpose, because, though guests will grow riotous in their cups, in spite of my good orderly example, God forbid I should say that is the case with you. And I completely agree in the truth of your remark, that reason speaks in the silence of wine.'"

In the midst of this discussion, the sea breaks in, the towers fall, the fertile land is inundated, Seithenyn leaps into the flood; while his visitors, his beautiful daughter Angharad, his bard, and some of his household, escape along the ridge of the embankment.

"King Gwythno had feasted joyously, and had sung his new ode to a chosen party of his admiring subjects, amidst their, of course, enthusiastic applause. He heard the storm raging without, as he laid himself down to rest; he thought it a very hard case for those who were out in it, especially on the sea; congratulated himself on his own much more comfortable condition; and went to sleep with a pious reflection on the goodness of Providence to himself. He was roused from a pleasant dream by a confused and tumultuous dissonance, that mingled with the roar of the tempest. Rising with much reluctance, and looking forth from his window, he beheld in the moonlight a half-naked multitude, larger than his palace thrice multiplied could have contained, pressing round the gates, and clamouring for admission and shelter; while beyond them his eye fell on the phenomenon of stormy waters, rolling in the place of the fertile fields from which he derived his revenue. Gwythno, though a king, and his own laureate, was not without sympathy for the people who had the honour and happiness of victualling his royal house; and he issued forth on his balcony full of perplexities and alarms, stunned by the sudden sense of the half-understood calamity, and his head still dizzy from the effects of abruptly-broken sleep, and the vapours of the overnight's glorious festival. Gwythno was altogether a reasonably good sort of person, and a poet of some note. His people were somewhat proud of him on the latter score,

and very fond of him on the former; for even the tenth part of those homely virtues that decorate the memories of 'husbands kind and fathers dear' in every churchyard, are matters of plebeian admiration in the persons of royalty; and every tangible point in every such virtue so located, becomes a convenient peg for the suspension of love and loyalty. While, therefore, they were unanimous in consigning the soul of Seithenyn to a place that no well-bred divine will name to a polite congregation, they overflowed, in the abundance of their own griefs, with a portion of sympathy for Gwythno, and saluted him, as he issued forth on his balcony, with a hearty *Duw cadw y Brenin*, or God save the King, which he returned with a benevolent wave of the hand; but they followed it up by an intense vociferation for food and lodging, which he received with a pitiful shake of the head."

Gwythno's kingdom is thus submerged and ruined, and himself and family reduced to a meagre subsistence on the fish of the river, a small mountain track, and the attachment of a few surviving subjects. Elphin, however, espouses Angharat, and they have a lovely daughter: about the same time a male child is found in a coracle in the fishing weir of the river, who turns out to be the famous bard Taliesin. Speaking of him, the author draws a humorous picture of the olden times, contrasting them with our improved and enlightened epoch. We can only select parts.

"As Taliesin grew up, Gwythno instructed him in all the knowledge of the age, which was of course not much, in comparison with ours. The science of political economy was sleeping in the womb of time. The advantage of growing rich by getting into debt and paying interest, was altogether unknown: the safe and economical currency, which is produced by a man writing his name on a bit of paper, for which other men give him their property, and which he is always ready to exchange for another bit of paper, of an equally safe and economical manufacture, being also equally ready to render his own person, at a moment's notice, as impalpable as the metal which he promises to pay—is a stretch of wisdom to which the people of those days had nothing to compare. They had no steam-engines, with fires as eternal as those of the nether world, wherein the squalid many, from infancy to age, might be turned into component portions of machinery for the benefit of the purple-faced few. They could neither poison the air with gas, nor the waters with its dregs: in short, they made their money of metal, and breathed pure air, and drank pure water, like unscentific barbarians. Of moral science they had little; but morals, without science, they had about the same as we have. They had a number of fine precepts, partly from their religion, partly from their bards, which they remembered in their liquor, and forgot in their business. Political science they had none. * * * Still they went to work politically much as we do. The powerful took all they could get from their subjects and neighbours; and called something or other sacred and glorious when they wanted the people to fight for them. * * * There was no liberty of the press, because there was no press; but there was liberty of speech to the bards, whose persons were inviolable, and the general motto of their order was *y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd*—the truth against the world. If many of them, instead of acting up to this splendid profession, chose to advance their personal fortunes by appealing to the selfishness, the passions, and the prejudices, of kings, fac-

tions, and the rabble, our free-press gentry may afford them a little charity out of the excess of their own virtue.

The laws lay in a small compass; every bard had those of his own community by heart. The king or chief was the judge; the plaintiff and defendant told their own story; and the cause was disposed of in one hearing. We may well boast of the progress of light, when we turn from this picture to the statutes at large, and the Court of Chancery; and we may indulge in a pathetic reflection on our sweet-faced myriads of 'learned friends,' who would be under the unpleasant necessity of suspending themselves by the neck, if this barbaric 'practice of the courts' were suddenly revived.

"As the people did not read the Bible, and had no religious tracts, their religion, it may be assumed, was not very pure. The rabble of Britons must have seen little more than the superficial facts, that the lands, revenues, privileges, and so forth, which once belonged to Druids and so forth, now belonged to abbots, bishops, and so forth, who, like their extruded precursors, walked occasionally in a row, chanting unintelligible words, and never speaking in common language but to exhort the people to fight; having, indeed, better notions than their predecessors of building, apparel, and cookery; and a better knowledge of the means of obtaining good wine, and of the final purpose for which it was made. They were observant of all matters of outward form, and tradition even places among them personages who were worthy to have founded a society for the suppression of vice. It is recorded in the Triads, that 'Gwrgi Garwlwyd killed a male and female of the Cymry daily, and devoured them; and on the Saturday he killed two of each, that he might not kill on the Sunday!' This can only be a type of some sanctimonious hero, who made a cloak of piety for oppressing the poor.

"When any of the Roimans or Saxons, who invaded the island, fell into the hands of the Britons, before the introduction of Christianity, they were handed over to the Druids, who sacrificed them, with pious ceremonies, to their goddess Andraste. These human sacrifices have done much injury to the Druidical character amongst us, who never practise them in the same way. They lacked, it must be confessed, some of our light, and also some of our prisons. They lacked some of our light to enable them to perceive, that the act of coming in great multitudes, with fire and sword, to the remote dwellings of peaceable men, with the premeditated design of cutting their throats, ravishing their wives and daughters, killing their children, and appropriating their worldly goods, belongs not to the department of murder and robbery, but to that of legitimate war, of which all the practitioners are gentlemen, and entitled to be treated like gentlemen."

Shall we be excused, after whetting the appetites of readers with these provoking slices, if we leave the rest of the banquet to be partaken at the original hostelry? Yes, we must leave many pieces of pleasing poetry suggested by the ancient bards; we must leave the adventures of many British kings; we must leave Arthur and his court; we must leave the feasts of Yule, and other glorious feasts; we must even leave the resuscitated hero of them all, the bibacious Seithenyn, and all the laughable scenes in which he figures supreme,—to be enjoyed over the Misfortunes of Elphin. All that we shall add is, that some sweet, though brief, touches of picturesque description give

variety to one of the most amusing volumes which we have perused for a long, long time.

Yesterday in Ireland. By the Author of "To-day in Ireland." 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1829. Colburn.

It is a curious fact, that as history in the present day furnishes *matériel* for the novel, so in a few succeeding years the novel may give many a useful hint for history. This is especially the case with those whose scenes and events are laid in Ireland; and the work before us is acceptable as belonging to this class. It is a clever picture, and we should think as impartially drawn as is possible for one who is himself interested in the subject; but this view of it we leave to the political critic, and content ourselves with doing justice to its literary merit. In minute portraiture of character; in analysis of those slight circumstances which are yet so powerful when they act on the feelings; in occasional observations, often as neatly turned as they are shrewd—our author is among the happiest of his brethren: in the conduct of his story he is less so—it wants what an artist would call foreshortening. The first, Vandeleur, is by far the best. Perhaps the following love-tale will be as acceptable to our readers, and show the writer's style as well, as any specimen we could choose from the lighter parts:—

"When O'Mahon arrived in France, and had been placed by the interest of Lord Loran in the body-guard of the king, the sudden change from the solitude of Corranahon, and the society of serfs or barbarians, to the brilliant and seductive court of Versailles, could not but have its natural effect upon one so young. The scene seemed unreal, so bright was it, so happy, so gay! The metamorphosis seemed a dream; and not the mere *perusal*, but the fantastic realisation of some of the most gorgeous pictures of the Arabian Nights, would scarcely have produced a more bewitching and intoxicating illusion. When the imagination is thus heated, the heart is most susceptible, and less guarded from the attack of wild and ambitious passion by the sober whisper of reason. The young *garde*, or page,—for he was no more,—too, shone in all the beauty and health of Irish high birth and rustic breeding. His race and caste had not then sunk, as since, into vulgarity and self-neglect. It was yet the companion of monarchs, and of a monarch's followers; and in the still-upheld balance of parties, the old Irish Catholic families had not so utterly sunk into insignificance and servitude as they had since been driven. At least, the effect of this had not time to shew itself upon themselves and their children. No marvel, then, that bright eyes were attracted to bestow a passing glance upon young O'Mahon; less marvel that he should return them; and that glances so meeting and so exchanged betwixt the lovely and the young, should call forth mutual blushing, which should serve as little mementos; and thence, recurring to the thought, should be laid hold upon as stuff wherewith fancy might form a hero or a mistress, or wherein she might build a fair fabric in the air. It was after this manner that the image of Lady Susan Talbot had been impressed upon the vision of young O'Mahon, and had continued the object of his reveries. A year had elapsed and advanced him in growth and services, ere circumstances allowed him to approach the mistress of his thoughts, to address to her the words of politeness and of gallantry, then and there synonymous. This forced silence and brooding

served to stamp deeper the precocious passion of the youth. The lady was either a grand-niece or grand-daughter of Lord Tyrconnel, who had been James's favourite, his lord-lieutenant in Ireland, and his companion in exile. In rank, in short, and state,* she was a star far above the cadet of a fallen Irish family, a mere body-guard in the service of the French king, who himself had often honoured Lady Susan with his attentions and smiles. She was lovely, indeed, as the imagination of youth, for once truth-telling, depicted her to young O'Mahon. In addition to these many and obvious causes of impediment and hopelessness was, that the lady was his elder; not very many years certainly; but still as we ascend the hill of life, whereof all look forward, at most on each side of them, but never revert their gaze, a few steps in advance is a greater separation than treble the interval upon life's summit or decline. Nevertheless, with the ardour and defiance of either probability or consequence that distinguishes an Irishman's daring, whether in love or in ambition, the stripling O'Mahon hoped, and dared, and even spoke. The latter probably he would not have ventured, but upon some provocation, some sparkling smile, which, though it might have been half excited by his audacity, appeared to him, naturally enough, a flattering though not unjust appreciation of his sincerity and warmth. The youth was eloquent—he was impassioned; and his earnestness and feeling spoke for him beyond his years. The lady listened, and listened, as she could alone listen to such a suitor, in secret. She was at the moment heart-free and suitor-free, and she replied to the youth's passion with a warmth that satisfied him, and with words that raised him to the paradise of his age. To both the hour was sweet—with him it was a lasting sweet. The intoxicating thought of being loved, brought, every hour he pondered longer upon it, still deeper, still more rapturous enthusiasm. With the lovely and mature Lady Susan it was otherwise. She was of that age when, indeed, prudence, mere worldly prudence, that of vanity or ambition, is often sacrificed at the shrine of passion; but she was also of the rational age and time when passion and all else is sacrificed to a fear of ridicule; and loving a boy was ridiculous. She therefore, having elevated poor Roger O'Mahon to the fool's paradise, and having rocked him there a given time to the most luscious of dreams and slumbers, roused him rather abruptly and cruelly from it, by espousing, one bright morning, in the chapel of St. Germain, Lord Auchinlech, a young Jacobite noble, who had preserved a considerable portion of the wreck of his fortunes, and who was prepared to devote both them and his zeal to the cause of the Stuarts. This was a dreadful blow to young O'Mahon, who fell senseless on the news; was taken with a fever in consequence; was long confined and in danger; interested the whole court when the story became known; and started from his illness with such notoriety, and such a character for sensibility, that could he have mustered up heart and courage for gallantry afresh, he might certainly have succeeded with the proudest and the fairest of Versailles. Roger O'Mahon, however, was vastly ashamed of his thus acquired celebrity. He regretted it, though it advanced him; for he was instantly appointed to a favoured regiment. Less honourable causes of promotion have been attended to; but at the same time

he felt that it communicated to him an air of burlesque that he could not shake off. He was too chivalrous to hate the sex; he, however, all but hated it. He dreaded it, and kept his heart, for a long time after, mailed against all its fascinations. He did not indeed fly society; the officer of an active corps has neither leisure nor opportunity for misanthropy. He mingled as before, was as gay, was as gallant, and was not the less agreeable or the less sentimental for the little ordeal he had passed. On the contrary, it made him free of many secrets, and gave him a talisman to make his way into the good graces of many; himself secure, it taught him to extract the sweet, and defy the poison."

The lady's consolation after long absence is characteristic, and we pick it out as one of the best bits.

"A boyish passion, in which the disappointment that was natural and unavoidable must have awakened in you a world of sad and tender melancholy pleasures, that else you had not known. Without that cross, my friend, you had scarcely known what love was; for want of the bitters, you had never prized its sweets. Success would have ruined thee, sealed up the fountains of your heart, and made you one of those pert and idle coxcombs whose heads have been addled, and their hearts hollowed, by facile and early conquest."

One or two chance observations, and we have done.

"It is by no means, as wise moralists have said, in sorrow that we need friend or consolation. Grief may be indeed diverted by the expressing of it, the telling of it; but this is an unworthy trick; and the true feeling of sorrow would never allow of such alleviation. It is rather in the first moments of recovery from sadness that we need a friend,—that the ideas take the road to the tongue,—that we demand society or can enjoy it."

"There is for me little to admire in the over-ornamented environs of a wealthy or capital town. The crowded villas, the trim enclosures, the spruce knots of ever-greens and exotics—every object too fine and orderly for Nature—the very grass too green, its over-luxuriance suggesting not its beauty, but its filthy and artificial cause—all these, whatever be the natural beauties of the thickly planted and tenanted circle, fail utterly in inspiring one idea of the rural picturesque. The view of wealth thus overflowing, thus assuming shape, and manifesting itself in pride, is doubtless not without its charm; it may gratify patriotic, or even philanthropic feelings; and the beholder may gladden at these tokens of human happiness and comfort. To me, however, the stamp of selfishness is on all this display. The current of wealth seems collected in tanks, and rivulets, and ornamental ponds, instead of being poured forth abroad to spread general fertility. Ideas of pettiness, and inutility, and narrowness, and of that meanest part of urbanity, called cockneyism, are connected with it;—and, in short, neither the poet, nor the novelist, nor even the simple sentimentalist, can make use of it."

"The free and easy manners of that day, still savouring of the times of the merry Charles, rendered a coffee-house, or other place of public entertainment, a kind of free or neutral port, where strangers laid aside at once the hostility of etiquette, and met on terms of friendship and good will—a state of society very different from that which exists in our days, when not to know a man seems tantamount to despising him, and when persons look upon the honour

of their acquaintance in some such light as maidens do that of their chastity, guarding it with a prudery all as scrupulous and strict. The better bred, nay, even the butterfly fops of those days, such as we find depicted in Wycherley and Farquhar, did not esteem their gentility so perishable as, like the hues of an insect's wing, to be brushed away by the slightest contact. The town, a term synonymous with society, was open to all, whether men of fashion or intruders; and the former felt no fear of being confounded in the vulgar crowd, secure of distinction in the inimitability of their lounge, dress, air, and oaths. In our days, if fashionable writers are to be believed, there exists a similar free-masonry of fashion, and the secrets of the 'gentle craft' are, it is vaunted, 'a marvel and a mystery' to the uninitiated. Perhaps so: but certes, those invisible fences must be found sadly inefficient, since they impart no more ease to external and mixed life, and since, even with their aids, we stand in need of the closer protection of our grim looks of mutual defiance."

We believe Mr. Crowe, the author of the English in Italy and France, is also author of the one we now dismiss in the belief that it will be almost as successful as its predecessors; and we have only further to remark, that in book titles, as in some other things, Ireland seems to be retrograding. Who but an Irish author would ever have published *Yesterday in Ireland*, after, and as a sequel to, *To-day in Ireland*? No one; but it belongs to the manufactory-school of publication. *To-day* was rather popular; therefore the trade is tried on, and *Yesterday* is spun out—only a rather inferior fabric; because it is impossible to continue a product of equal value from the refuse of the raw material which was wrought out in the first instance. Now, if *Yesterday* can be sold with a profit, the next tissues would be *To-morrow in Ireland*, or *A Fortnight since*, or *A Month hence*, till patience was exhausted, and Time no more.

The Poets of Russia.

WE are indebted to M. Pletueff, a native writer, for a disquisition on the Russian poets, whose merits are briefly touched upon in the subsequent sketch.

"The frigid barriers and debasing suberviency to the false refinement of the upper ranks of society, by which the Gallic Parnassus is shackled, could not long comport with the independent spirit of the Russian muse. Love of country awakened and attuned the lyre of Lomonosoff; and the muse withdrew from the haunts of refined life to the still scenes of domestic bliss. It is her misfortune that her woosers should be their own critics, and sit as judges and plaintiffs and defendants in their own cause; she must continue to suffer under this evil ail. as Russia remains destitute of the means by which the critical mind can be reared and cultivated. The prevailing use of the French language among the higher ranks has confined the efforts of the dramatic muse; tragedy has been stricken with bombast, and comedy with vulgarity. Yet Osteroff takes an eagle's flight when his pinions are unloosed; then his tragedy becomes admirable: but lyrics are his forte—genuine feeling, depth of thought, an animation full of nerve and nature, and an imagination replete with power and energy, characterise his muse, whenever he bursts the trammels of conventional refinement. Der-schawin's lofty enthusiasm, independence of feeling, and strength of expression, fit him to

* This is pretty phraseology, and emblematic of the rapidity of the steam system.

lead the van among Russian poets; it is he who has called the modern dialect of Russia into existence, and shed a halo of literary glory on the age of Catherine the Second. Kapnist, inferior to the last-named in imagination, but superior to him in elegance and facility of expression, treads in the steps of Horace, whom he rationalised among his fellow-countrymen. Osteroff occupies a distinguished rank in tragedy, though this is the most barren and least original of any branch of our native literature. Lafontaine is the modeller who has imparted a facile and playful expression to the pens of Bogdanowitsch and Chenizer: the Russian idiom, indeed, has a peculiar susceptibility for the light and lively. Dmitrieff, by the easy flow and purity of his style, and Kriloff, by his originality, depth, and nationality, have acquired great celebrity, and eminently raised the character of the apologue, epistle, satire, and lyrics. In the novelist's department, Kriloff's *Gernack* will always remain a living model. Nedelniskij is an enthusiast, and captivates the reader by depth of thought and melody of style. Shukoffskij, the creator of the modern school of poetry in Russia, is full of profound poetical feeling, as well as distinguished by the purity of his taste; and possesses a perfect mastery of the most recondite lores of his native tongue. His whole soul is wrapped in romance, and Schiller and Byron are his household gods. Batuschkoff is equally great, though in another field: susceptible as Tibullus, there is a pathetic tone and a sweetness and tenderness of expression about his poetry, which soothe and harmonise the feelings. One of the most eminent and original of Russian lyrists is Puschkin: his *Ludmila*, *Russia*, the *Imprisoned*, and *Baktschissaraï*, would excite admiration in the most refined societies of Europe. Gneditsch, who has translated the *Iliad*, ranks high as a pastoral poet; his *Fishermen* can never sink into oblivion; he is the 'knight militant' of classical literature among his countrymen. Davidoff and Prince Wasemskoi stand at the head of Russian humorists: the war-songs of the former are as brilliant as the offspring of *Anacreon's* muse; the latter has signally chastened and refined the vulgar tongue, and shines as the wittiest of Russian rhymers. Glinka is distinguished by the tenderness of his allegories; Rylejeff is sought after for his ballads; Baron Delwig has acquired a name as a dramatic poet; and Alex. Kriloff, who is replete with manliness and feeling, sweeps the lyric lyre in the full fervour of his own imaginings. Baratsinskij is an elegiac poet: deep, clear, and animated, he forms himself on the model of the ancients. Jessikoff is an enthusiast, lofty in his conceptions, and fervent in his patriotism: his competitor, Michael Dmitrieff, is sweeter and more correct. Pissariëff shines as a painter of nature, and delights by the easy structure of his metre. Wassilj Tumeniskij seizes more upon the heart; and Rosloff, who is both lame and blind, drinks at the fountain of classical lore, and reigns sublime in lyrical compositions." Few of these poets have collected their pieces together; they lie scattered in the columns of newspapers and periodicals; and for this plain reason—there are more poets than readers in Russia, and the book-trade has scarcely crawled out of its cradle.

Dr. Ure's New System of Geology: concluded. As we observed in our last, it is impossible for us to convey a full idea of the value of this important work, and especially of that most interesting division of it to which our previous brief remarks have brought us. We can only

afford imperfect examples, and the following passages seem as capable of insulation as any other under this head.

"In the early epoches of the antediluvian world, soon after the granitic atlas had uplifted the primitive mountains, and before the extensive series of mineral beds, which occupy our second book, were deposited beneath the ocean, its waters resting on the nearly concentric, or slightly broken zones of gneiss and mica slate, necessarily lay in closer proximity with the interior fires than at any subsequent period. Hence two important consequences:—1. From the thinness of the solid crust, the smallest chink or fissure in it would be an immediate focus of submarine explosion, accompanied and followed by a commensurate comminution and dispersion of the solid rocks and organic deposits through the agitated waters. 2. The ocean would then attain its maximum temperature; a pitch certainly far higher than at present, yet not incompatible with the vital functions of fish, many of which, according to Humboldt, can live in water almost boiling hot. Desfontaines found the *sparus* thriving in tepid fountains of 100° Fahr. near the town of Cassa, in the kingdom of Tunis. From the extreme mobility of its molecules, water is the most expeditious conveyer of heat from below upwards; while, from its non-conducting quality it is a most faithful carrier, losing none of it during its ascent. Hence any degree of warmth, however gentle, imparted to the bottom of the oceanic mass, will be transmitted unimpaired to the surface. And again, as water possesses a very high specific heat, one four times greater than air by weight, so that five gallons of water in cooling only one degree F., can warm by the same quantity 2650 cubic feet of air, being the contents of a chamber about 16 feet square and 10½ feet high,—we see what a genial climate would be created over the earth, from pole to pole, under such an order of things. Then the intrinsic source of terrestrial heat, having its diffusive energy but slightly obstructed, would be paramount over the solar; so that the position of the sun, relative to the equator, would act a very subordinate part in modifying climate, instead of being its sovereign arbiter, as at the present day. Plants which love a warm but humid atmosphere, like the esquisetums, ferns, &c. would multiply and flourish under such circumstances with nearly equal vigour in the Arctic Regions, as under the Line. Hence also the difference of equatorial and polar temperatures would be at first comparatively small, so that a considerable uniformity of vegetation would pervade the most distant zones. We need not, therefore, be surprised at finding the same *calamites*, or gigantic esquisetums buried among the coal-measures of New Holland (near Port Jackson), and of England; though now-a-days, that plants are subjugated to the undivided empire of the sun, they differ in species with very moderate variations of latitude, and with every change of hemisphere.

"The first age of the world, then, extending probably through several centuries, fully realised the universal and unfading spring of the poets. Under such fostering powers of vegetation, the coal-measure plants were matured, in countless myriads, with a rapidity to which modern experience can furnish no parallel. But the tremendous catastrophes of the crust of the earth, that took place soon after this period, of which the dislocations and disruptions of the coal-strata themselves exhibit magnificent memorials, generated a vast quantity of detritus from the older rocks, which, at first diffused through a turbid ocean, progressively

subsided on its bottom in the chemical order of deposition; constituting beds of conglomerate limestone, red marl, and lias; in variable proportions of thickness and extent, according to the nature of the exploded and comminuted rocks. In the secondary formations of geology, in fact, we see nothing but a repetition of mineral *triads*; shells more or less fractured, covered with a twofold coat, the undermost of sand or sandstone, the uppermost of clay more or less indurated. The tepid ocean-bed vied in fecundity with the glowing soil round its shores, and thus was covered with a thick deposit of shell-fish and their exuviae. At each encounter of the water and subjacent explosive metals, these shells would be more or less scattered and broken down, and when tranquillity returned, covered with their silicious and argillaceous mantles.

"In considering the causes of these mighty revolutions, which have subverted the outer frame-work of the ancient world, and which seem to have occasioned many unrecorded inundations, before the universal deluge, we must be careful to distinguish between the effect of a moderate expansive force acting within the crust of the earth, and that of a very great one; the former, like the late earthquakes in Chili to be presently described, sufficing merely to raise in an unbroken plain a large tract of land, while the latter would shatter the shell into fragments, and lay them prostrate under the equilibrating powers of gravitation in a revolving sphere. Thus to compare great things with small, a moderate blast of gunpowder, under a stratum of freestone, in a cliff, will be adequate merely to lift it along with its superjacent soil; but a greater explosion will break it into pieces, and strew the detritus over the surrounding planes and hollows. A few masses may, no doubt, be tossed up to great heights; but the general effect will be a levelling one; as is amply illustrated in the mining operations of a siege, where the massive ramparts of masonry are scattered along the bottom of the fosse. We have therefore every physical reason to conclude that each great antediluvian convulsion of the earth extended the empire of the sea, and abridged the boundaries of the land by a permanent submersion of some of its regions; mechanical effects involving commensurate physical changes of climate; 1. by the thickening deposits of the ocean; 2. by the increase of the cooling or aqueous surface of the globe; and 3. by the decrease of the heating or terrene, as will be fully developed in treating of the deluge in the fifth chapter."

Chapter 4, entitled *elevation of submarine strata*; Chapter 5, *phenomena of the deluge*; and Chapter 6, *animal remains or ruins of the deluge*,—are replete with much geological information, in so condensed a form as to be hardly susceptible of further abridgment. We shall, therefore, conclude our analysis of this entertaining volume by the following extract from the seventh chapter, on the *present earth, and era of its emergence*, to show our readers the author's manner of reconciling physical research to sacred history.

"The ancient world possessed a middle constitution between these two extremes. Its superficial temperature was not very unequable from pole to pole, and its expanse of humid surface was less relative to that of its dry land. Thus the causes of atmospheric commotion were fewer and feebler; and the phenomenon of rain must have been very rare, except on some insular circumpolar coasts. The exhalations from the tepid seas would diffuse abundance of aqueous nourishment to the cactuses, palms, and

cyrcadesides of its glowing plains. Immediately after the flood, however, the sea-soaked lands would send up universal exhalations round the chilly globe; whence showers and rainbows would become, for some time at least, almost daily appearances. This conclusion of physical research coincides well with our ancient history of the new-drained earth. 'And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature, that is with you for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud. And the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.'—*Genesis*, ix. The ark preserved eight intelligent witnesses, come to mature age, of antediluvian skies and seasons. Had a shower of rain been as common before the flood as it was after it, then the rainbow being a necessary result of the refraction and reflection of the sunbeams by the sheet of falling drops, must have been often seen by the family of Noah in the land of their birth, and could not, therefore, be now hailed by them as an infallible seal of a peculiar covenant, graciously bestowed by their reconciled Ruler. He had just appeared in an awful light—as the inexorable judge of their guilty compatriots. Anxiously might they lift their eyes to heaven for some new token to inspire confidence in the stability of the new order of nature; to encourage them to diligence in their enjoined task of replenishing the earth. It is therefore evident, both from the emphatic words in which the meteoric ensign of heaven's favour is announced, as well as from the holy purpose which it was ordained to serve, that it must have been equally strange as it was glorious in their sight; for antediluvians occupying possibly on their devoted lands a portion of its great continent, now covered by the Pacific, might never have witnessed a sunshine shower. A canopy of clouds, indeed, might often be stretched in the cooler upper regions of their skies; but the aqueous vesicles, in descending through the warmer aerial strata below, would return again to invisible vapour, a process fully described in Book I. chap. 3. In such clouds, no bow could be set. Heavy dews deposited during the night and early dawn, from the well-known influence of a ground chilled by calorific radiation, would supply the place of rain for vegetable sustenance; as now happens in Lima and many other regions of our present globe. I had deduced these corollaries from the hygrometric laws laid down in treating of the atmosphere, before my attention was directed to the following curious historical notice of primeval meteorology. It affords a very beautiful, and to me quite unexpected accordance, between the results of Science and the records of Faith. 'For the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the whole earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.'—*Genesis*, ii. 5, 6. This document, at which a sciolist might possibly sneer, is in reality a powerful testimony to the truth of Moses. The rainbow thus becomes a most significant emblem of God's providential regard to man. It is a phenomenon which results from, and declares the remodelled constitution of the terraqueous sphere. It is a type of sin and suffering, of expiation and peace; a vision where the heaven-ward soul may discern the sublimest truths of Revelation and Science."

Five copper-plates represent seventy fossil-

shells, characteristic of the successive strata: the first plate exhibiting those of the carboniferous limestone; the second, those of the lias; and so of the others. There is a beautiful lithograph of a petrified plant in sand-stone, which abounds in a certain coal formation in Argyleshire. It resembles the *Cactus cylindricus*, as described by Von Martius. The woodcuts interspersed through the letter-press afford accurate representations of some of the most interesting objects in mineral structure and organic remains. Several characteristic teeth of the more important fossil animals are portrayed.

To conclude, we can honestly recommend this work to every class of readers. It communicates, in perspicuous and pleasing language, a vast variety of knowledge concerning the structure and revolutions of our planet and its ancient kingdoms of life; and, at the same time, demonstrates, in a very satisfactory manner, the harmony which subsists in every essential point between the conclusions of science and the Mosaic narrative of the Creation and the Deluge. Indeed, we have no hesitation in saying, that it is a most, if not the most, valuable contribution which Physics has made to the evidences of Revelation.

Journal of a Naturalist: continued.

We had too much pleasure in this volume to quit it abruptly: *ergo* we go on with it.

Speaking of the singular habits of the snapdragon, and other insect-imprisoning or destroying plants, the author says—

"It is a perplexing matter to reconcile our feelings to the rigour, and our reason to the necessity, of some plants being made the instruments of destruction to the insect world. Of British plants we have only a few so constructed, which, having clammy joints and calyxes, entangle them to death. The sun-dew (*drosera*) destroys in a different manner, yet kills them without torture. But we have one plant in our gardens, a native of North America, than which none can be more cruelly destructive of animal life, the dogbane (*apocynum androsa-mifolium*), which is generally conducive to the death of every fly that settles upon it. Allured by the honey on the nectary of the expanded blossom, the instant the trunk is protruded to feed on it, the filaments close, and, catching the fly by the extremity of its proboscis, detain the poor prisoner writhing in protracted struggles, till released by death,—a death apparently occasioned by exhaustion alone; the filaments then relax, and the body falls to the ground. The plant will at times be dusky from the numbers of imprisoned wretches. This elastic action of the filaments may be conducive to the fertilising of the seed, by scattering the pollen from the anthers, as is the case with the berberry; but we are not sensible that the destruction of the creatures which excite the action is in any way essential to the wants or perfection of the plant; and our ignorance favours the idea of a wanton cruelty in the herb; but how little of the causes and motives of action of created things do we know! and it must be unlimitable arrogance alone, that could question the wisdom of the mechanism of Him 'that judgeth rightly:' the operations of a simple plant confound and humble us, and, like the hand-writing on the wall, though seen by many, can be explained but by ONE.

"All the varieties of this snapdragon have the power of maintaining a state of vegetation in great droughts, when most other plants yield to the influence of the weather; and it

is the more remarkable in these plants, as the places in which they chiefly delight to vegetate are particularly exposed to the influence of the sun. In that hot dry summer of 1825, when vegetation was in general burned up and withered away, yet did this plant continue to exist on parched walls, and draw nutriment from sources apparently unable to afford it; not in full vigour certainly, but in a state of verdure beyond any of its associates. The common burnet (*poterium sanguisorba*) of our pastures, in a remarkable degree likewise possesses this faculty of preserving its verdure, and flourishing amid surrounding aridity and exhaustion. It is probable that these plants, and some others, have the power of imbibing that insensible moisture which arises from the earth even in the driest weather, or from the air which passes over them. The immense evaporation proceeding from the earth even in the hottest season, supplies the air constantly with moisture; and as every square foot of this element can sustain eleven grains of water, an abundant provision is made for every demand. We can do little more than note these facts: to attempt to reason upon the causes why particular plants are endowed with peculiar faculties, would be mere idleness; yet in remarking this, we cannot pass over the conviction, that the continual escape of moisture from one body, and its imbibition by another, this unremitting motion and circulation of matter, are parts of that wonderful ordination, whereby the beneficence and wisdom of Providence are manifested; without the agency of evaporation, not dwelling on the infinitude of effects and results, no vegetation could exist, no animal life continue. The ivy (*hedera helix*), the dark-looking ivy, almost covers with its thick foliage the pollards in our hedges; and, creeping up the sides of the old barn, and chimney of the cottage, nearly hides them from our sight; affording a sheltered roosting-place to many poor birds, and is almost their only refuge in the cold season of the year. But the ivy can boast of much more extensive service to the poor wayfarer beings of creation, than the merely affording them a covering from the winds of winter. Those two extreme quarters of our year, autumn and spring, yield to most animals but a very slender and precarious supply of food; but the ivy in those periods saves many from want and death; and the peculiar situations in which it prefers to flourish, are essential to the preservation of this supply, as in less sheltered ones it would be destroyed. In the month of October the ivy blooms in profusion, and spreading over the warm side of some neglected wall, or the sunny bark of the broad-ash on the bank, its flowers become a universal banquet to the insect race. The great black fly (*musca grossa*), and its numerous tribe, with multitudes of small winged creatures, resort to them; and there we see those beautiful animals, the latest birth of the year, the admiral (*vanessa atalanta*) and peacock (*vanessa io*) butterflies, hanging with expanded wings like open flowers themselves, enjoying the sunny gleam, and feeding on the sweet liquor that distils from the nectary of this plant. As this honey is produced in succession, by the early or later expansion of the bud, it yields a constant supply of food, till the frosts of November destroy the insects, or drive them to their winter retreats. Spring arrives; and in the bitter months of March, April, and even May at times, when the wild products of the field are nearly consumed, the ivy ripens its berries, and then almost entirely constitutes the food of the missel-thrush, wood-pigeon,

and some other birds; and now these shy and wary birds, that commonly avoid the haunts of man, constrained by hunger will approach our dwellings, to feed upon the ripe berries of the ivy. Now too the blackbird and the thrush resort to its cover, to conceal their nests. These early-building birds find little foliage at this period sufficient to hide their habitations; and did not the ivy lend its aid to preserve them, and no great number are preserved, perhaps few nests would be hidden from the young eyes that seek them. The early expansion of the catkins of the willow (*salix caprea*), and others of the willow tribe, whence the bee extracts its first food, and the late blooming of this ivy, are indispensable provisions for the existence of many of the insect race; the 'young raven does not cry in vain,' nor is any thing abandoned by that Power which called it into being. We all seem to love the ivy,

'The wanton ivy wreath'd in amorous twines,' more than any other uncultured evergreen that we possess."

When treating of the foxglove, now digitalis, the following pertinent remarks occur:—

"Why such a name as 'foxes-gloves' was bestowed upon this plant it is difficult to say, perhaps from the bare resemblance to finger-cases presented by its flowers: but I am not one of those who cavil or jeer at the common, or 'vulgar names,' as we are in the habit of denominating the unscientific appellations of plants; for we must remember, that the culling of herbs and simples, and compounding preparations from them, to relieve the sufferings of nature, were the first rudiments of all our knowledge, the most grateful exertion of human talent, and, after food and clothing, the most necessary objects of life. In ages of simplicity, when every man was the usual dispenser of good or bad, benefit or injury, to his household or his cattle—ere the veterinary art was known, or the drugs of other regions introduced—necessity looked up to the products of our own clime, and the real or fanciful virtues of them were called to the trial, and manifests the reasonableness of bestowing upon plants and herbs such names as might immediately indicate their several uses or fitness for application; when distinctive characters, had they been given, would have been little attended to; and hence the numbers found favourable to the cure of particular complaints, the ailments of domestic creatures, or deemed injurious to them. Modern science may wrap up the meaning of its epithets in Greek and Latin terms; but in very many cases they are the mere translations of these despised 'old, vulgar names.' What pleasure it must have afforded the poor sufferer in body or in limb,—what confidence he must have felt for relief, when he knew that the good neighbour who came to bathe his wounds, or assuage his inward torments, brought with him such things as 'all-heal, break-stone, bruise-wort, gout-weed, fever-few' (*fugio*), and twenty other such comfortable mitigators of his afflictions: why, their very names would almost charm away the sense of pain! The modern recipe contains no such terms of comfortable assurance; its meanings are all dark to the sufferer, its influence unknown. And then the good herbalist of old professed to have plants which were 'all-good:' they could assuage anger by their 'loose-strife;' they had 'honesty, true-love, and heart's-ease.' The cayennes, the soys, the catsups, and extra-tropical condiments of these days, were not required, when the next thicket would produce 'poor

man's pepper, sauce-alone, and hedge-mustard;' and the woods and wilds around, when they yielded such delicate viands as 'fat hen, lamb's-quarters, way-bread, butter and eggs, with codlins and cream,' afforded no despicable bill of fare. No one ever yet thought of accusing our old simplers of the vice of avarice or love of lucre; yet their 'thrift' is always to be seen: we have their humble 'pennywort, herb twopenny, moneywort, silverweed, and gold.' We may smile, perhaps, at the cognomens, or the commemorations of friendships, or of worth, recorded by the old simplers—at their herbs, 'Bennet, Robert, Christopher, Gerard, or Basil;' but do the names so bestowed by modern science read better, or sound better? it has 'Lightfootia, Lapeyroussia, Hedwigia, Schkubria, Schenckzeria;' and surely we may admit, in common benevolence, such partialities as 'good King Henry, sweet William, sweet Marjory, sweet Cicely, Lettuce, Mary Gold, and Rose.' There are epithets, however, so very extraordinary, that we must consider them as mere perversions, or at least incapable of explanation at this period. The terms of modern science waver daily; names undergo an annual change, fade with the leaf, and give place to others; but the ancient terms, which some may ridicule, have remained for centuries, and will yet remain till nature is swallowed up by art. No: let our ancient herbalists, 'a grave and whiskered race,' retain the honours due to their labours, which were most needful and important ones at those periods; by them were many of the casualties and sufferings of man and beast relieved; and by aid of perseverance, better constitutions to act upon, and faith to operate, than we possess, they probably effected cures which we moderns should fail to accomplish, if attempted."

On the prevalence of the yellow colour in natural objects, it is stated—

"The bark, the wood, the flower, the leaves of many of our native trees and plants afford a yellow dye;—we have no colour so easily produced as this is; and it is equally remarkable, that, amidst all the varied hues of spring, yellow is the most predominant in our wild and cultured plants. The primrose, cowslip, pilewort, globe-flower, butter-cup, chervil, crocus, all the cabbage tribe, the dandelions, appear in this dress. The very first butterfly,

'aloft repair,

And sport and flutter in the fields of air,'

is the sulphur butterfly (*gonopteryx rhamni*), which in the bright sunny mornings of March we so often see under the warm hedge, or by the side of some sheltered copse, undulating and vibrating like the petal of a primrose in the breeze. The blossoms of many of our plants afford for the decoration of the fair a vast variety of colours and intermediate tints; but they are all of them, or nearly so, inconstant or fugitive before the light of the sun, or mutable in the dampness of the air, except those obtained from yellow flowers; circumstances may vary the shade, but yet it is mostly permanent. Yellow is again the livery of autumn, in all the shades of ochre and of orange; the 'sere and yellow leaf' becomes the general cast of the season; the sober brown comes next, and then decay."

"Badgers are said to feed much upon the fruit of the bramble. They are certainly very fat and fleshy about the time that the blackberry is ripe; but it is probable that the acorns and crabs, which it finds at the same season, contribute most to its nourishment."

SIGHTS OF BOOKS.

The Influence of Physical Education in producing and confirming, in Females, Deformity of the Spine. By E. W. Duffin, Surgeon. Bro. London, 1829. G. Swire.

THE attention of the public has of late years been directed to this class of distortions by several valuable and scientific treatises; amongst which, those of Bamfield, Shaw, and Harrison, hold a conspicuous place. The essay now before us, though of more humble pretensions, is no less adapted, on that account, to produce much good, by pointing out many causes which, from the frequency of their occurrence, or their apparent insignificance, being apt to be overlooked, may tend to deform the beautiful and symmetrical shape originally bestowed by nature on many of the fairest of our kind, who, from want of due attention, at an early period, to what may seem of trivial import, become, finally, in some instances, not only objects of commiseration, but a burden to their friends, and unable to fill that station in society which they would otherwise be calculated to adorn.

Mr. Duffin's work, though designed for general readers, more especially for those engaged in the superintendence of female education, contains many practical and professional observations worthy of attention, and is written in a style at once clear, familiar, and concise. His remarks are principally directed to specifying the different moral and mechanical causes, resulting from the modern system of female education pursued in this country, that tend to induce, by their influence on the general system, deformity of the spine; and to inculcating certain rules to be observed in regard to the period allotted to study, dress, exercise, &c., by which these causes may be in a great measure avoided. Amongst other observations, we would direct the attention of our female acquaintance to the strictures on modern apparel; and that of parents to the influence of a too early cultivation of the minds of children. In conclusion, we may observe, that although the author has not advanced much absolutely new, he has presented a collection of facts not perhaps easily remembered in the perusal of more voluminous works; and, by divesting his remark of all technicalities of language, has well adapted it to the class of readers for whom it is principally designed, and by whom the subject has not hitherto been sufficiently regarded.

Geographical and Biographical Exercises. By the late William Butler. The 16th edition, enlarged by his son, John Olding Butler, with an entirely new set of Coloured Maps. London, 1829. Harris.

THE fact of these Exercises having attained the sixteenth edition supercedes the necessity of any other recommendation; nor should we have departed from our usual rule of passing by literary products which the fostering sunshine of public favour has fully matured, had not our attention been attracted by the new and elegant outline maps which distinguish this little manual. These maps, eleven in number, embrace not only what is most essential for young beginners, but also those more important features in geography which may serve as useful recollections for the advanced scholar. Their utility is therefore twofold. As a correct delineation of the grand outlines of the four quarters of the globe, and of the British Isles, they are entitled to much praise; while their intrinsic merit is enhanced by the obvious colours in which they are arrayed, and which seem to invite the youthful eye to an

investigation of their contents. Much useful information will be found in the Geographical and Biographical Exercises which illustrate the maps; and in the biography some excellent moral truths are conveyed, which, if they do not conduct learners to the temple of fame, will at least lead them to that not less desirable distinction, of being good, and therefore happy, members of society.

Early Impressions; or, Moral and Instructive Entertainment for Children, in Prose and Verse. With twelve Designs by Dighton. 12mo. pp. 215. London, 1829. Hatchard.

It might be supposed, from the beginning of this little volume, that it was simply a child's book, the object of which was merely to amuse the infantine mind, in the usual, and that no very luminous, way: in fact, that many other books did the same thing in much the same manner. On examining, however, somewhat farther, and looking into the spirit of the book, we discover that it is not only calculated to afford amusement to children, but that its object is to bring their minds early to a knowledge of those principles which are indispensably necessary to them in future life, and by a study of which their minds are led to a right use of ideas, and taught to appreciate the beauties and advantages of good conduct, and the disadvantages and shame attending on bad. These are the main features of the work. As to the language, it is as it should be for children—plain and unsophisticated; the arrangement well managed, and such as might be expected from the pen of a barrister, who, as he professes in his preface, would really seem, by thus going out of the usual track of the profession, to have had in view the benefit of the youthful portion of mankind.

Longhollow: a Country Tale. By Mrs. Bryan Bedingfield. 3 vols. London, 1839. Whitaker, Treacher, and Arnot.

A NOVEL quite of the old school: to criticise it severely would be an unnatural act; and we would not be harsh on our grandmothers' tastes.

Modern Precedents in Conveyancing, arranged on a new and simple Plan. By John Hall, Gent. Part I. 8vo. pp. 304. London, 1829. J. and W. T. Clarke.

WE have no doubt of the value of this collection of precedents to the conveyancer and to the lawyer; but we must confess, as mere lay persons, we look with rather a jaundiced eye upon a profession which can by possibility require the farrago of words, the immense tautology, the continual amplifications, which are to be found in these Precedents. The "uses, trusts, provisoes, conditions, restrictions, limitations, covenants, and agreements, herein contained," are absolutely enough.

To fight the law from its propriety.

We recommend the work strongly to the legal profession, not for its intrinsic value—of which we are not very good judges—but as an eminent and obvious example of the necessity for amendment in our legal (or conveyancing) code.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Friday evening, Feb. 27.

THE subject for this evening's consideration was, "on Brard's test of the action of weather on building-stone and materials;" by Mr. Faraday.

The lecturer observed, that so long ago as

1823, Mr. Brard was urged by his friends to examine in the manner in which stones were disintegrated by the action of water and frost; and, if possible, to discover some means of ascertaining in a short period of time what would be the effect of "weathering" in many years: this he succeeded in accomplishing; and the object of this evening's meeting was to give an account of the test and the confirmation of its value, from experiments made some years since by Mr. Faraday, and more recently also in France.

The general action of the atmosphere, and the substances occurring in it, were first remarked upon, a division being made into chemical and mechanical agencies: with the exception of the deterioration of certain granite rocks and some others similarly constructed, chemical action was considered as doing more good than harm; and when exerted through the agencies of carbonate of lime or oxide of iron, tending to harden and bind the building-stone, rather than to loosen it: all effects relative to the mutual action of cement and stone were purposely kept out of view.

Mr. Faraday then described the mechanical effects of the atmosphere and those most important ones of water and frost: the way in which water acted when frozen in the pores of stones, was also illustrated, and the general disintegration of building-stones elucidated by a reference to the bridges and other structures in London, and likewise to specimens received from the Asiatic Society, which, after exposure for centuries to the atmosphere in the East, had the effects produced upon them contrasted with what had taken place on the same stones by a few years exposure in England.

Mr. Faraday next described the test as consisting in the crystallisation of certain saline solutions, to which pieces of stones have been submitted in the following manner:—sawn cubes, about two inches in the side, are to be numbered, then boiled for half an hour in a solution of sulphate of soda saturated at common temperatures, and then exposed to air, that evaporation may proceed; the salt crystallises, and produces the effect of freezing; the specimens are then to be dipped in a portion of the same solution, cold, until the acicular crystals fall; they are again exposed to the air; this process repeated, five days equals the effect of frost upon stones in our climate in many years: if the angles of the stone be much injured, it will suffer to a corresponding degree by air. The process was illustrated by specimens in progress, which shewed the different states. The lecturer, in taking leave of his subject, observed that the test had been tried upon English slates some years ago, immediately after Mr. Brard's publication, and gave results agreeing with the received values of the slates in the market: it had also been tried and acknowledged in France. He then gave minute directions for its use, and referred those who wished to pursue the subject farther, to the *Bibliothèque Universelle*, vol. xxiv. page 224, and other works.

As is the case when Mr. Faraday lectures, there was a very great attendance of members and their friends: his Grace the Duke of Somerset, the president of the Institution, was in the chair; many architects were also present, and appeared to be highly interested in the subject.

In the library were various specimens of Hindu sculpture, some of them very graceful: they had been used in external decoration, and the principal object of their exhibition was to shew to what extent disintegration had gone

in that country. Amongst the presents was Mr. Provis's magnificent account of the Menai chain bridge.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MAR. 3.—A. B. Lambert, Esq. V.P. in the chair. An interesting collection of dried plants from the deserts of Sinai and Akkaba, in Arabia, and a cone of the *Arancaria imbricata*, or Chili pine, from the mountains of Chili, were laid before the meeting.

Mr. Hay, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. Schenley, his Majesty's Consul at Puerto Cabello, were elected fellows of the Society.

The continuation of Mr. Don's paper on the new genera and species of the class Composite, belonging to the Floras of Peru, Chili, and Mexico, was read.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

FEB. 24.—A paper was read by the Secretary, on printing in stereotype. It was introduced by a general summary of the invention of printing. The near approach to printing made by the ancients in their signet-rings, stamps, brands, &c. was first noticed; then the stamping of playing-cards, &c. by the Venetians, about the end of the 14th century: to this succeeded a description of early wood-engravings, on single blocks, of saints and Scripture subjects, containing a few words of explanation, often in the form of labels proceeding from the mouth of the principal figure. The gradual transition of these single wood-engravings to the *image-books*, consisting of a number of such engravings in pairs, back to back, and sewed together in a common cover, was then noticed, and illustrated by specimens. A comparison was made between these block-books and the books now printed in China and Japan: the great similarity of the two modes was pointed out; and a set of Chinese printing-blocks, with the tools used in cutting them out, as well as those employed in the process of printing from them, was exhibited, having been procured from the museum of the East India Company.

The improvements made by Gutenberg in the fifteen or twenty years succeeding the year 1435, were next detailed; namely, the decomposition of the single wooden block into movable wooden types; the substitution of metal for wood, as the material in which movable types were cut; and, lastly, the employment of cut metal types only as matrices from which the types actually employed were cast. Some manuscript missals and specimens of early printing were exhibited; and the causes of the high state of perfection attained by this art in the first century after its invention, were discussed.

The Secretary then proceeded to the subject of stereotype. He stated the difference between modern stereotype and that used about the beginning of the eighteenth century by J. Vander Mey, the Dutch printer. He then mentioned the independent invention of proper stereotype by Ged in Scotland, and by Vallière in France, and its subsequent improvements by Dr. Tilloch and Mr. Foulis, of Glasgow; by Mr. Wilson and Earl Stanhope, by Mr. Cowper, Mr. T. C. Hansard, and others, in London.

The various processes in the manufacture of stereotype plates were then detailed, and elucidated by the exhibition of specimens and of the apparatus employed: the art of bending stereotype plates, in order to adapt them to cylinder machine-printing, was noticed as the

invention of Mr. Cowper. The subject was concluded by a description of the French mode of forming stereotype plates *en cliché*, and a statement of the advantages and disadvantages of stereotype printing.

The specimens in illustration of the dissertation were manuscripts and early printed books furnished by Mr. Windus, Mr. Lincoln, and Mr. Howard; samples of stereotype, and of casts in type of medals, of lithography, and of copper-plates, from Messrs. Clowes, Mr. T. C. Hansard, Mr. Kelsall, Mr. Chater, and Mr. Newberry.

There were also exhibited some exceedingly fine specimens of ornamental castings in iron made at Berlin, from the collection of James Yates, Esq.; also a picture by Wilkie; drawings by Danby, Doo, Denning, Martin, Robinson, Turner, Stephanoff, Stothard, and Uwins; an engraving by Vendramini of the fine picture of the Raising of Lazarus, by Sebastian del Piombo; and of the portraits of Miss Croker, the Duke of Wellington, and the late Pope, by Cousins, from paintings by Sir T. Lawrence. A superb Japanese screen was sent by Mr. T. Cooper, of Bond Street. Two models of sounding-boards were sent by the Rev. J. Blackburn, illustrative of his paper on the subject in the last volume of the Philosophical Transactions. A very interesting series of gums, resins, balsams, and gum-resins, was sent by Mr. H. Hennell; and specimens of the gold, silver, and copper coins of the present King were exhibited by Mr. W. Wyon, principal engraver to his Majesty's Mint.

MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

At the anniversary meeting of this Society, held last Monday, Dr. Roget was elected president; Dr. Billing, Dr. Gordon, C. A. Key, Esq., and F. Tyrrell, Esq., vice-presidents; Dr. Roget and H. Earle, Esq., treasurers; Dr. Alderson and J. F. South, Esq., secretaries; Dr. M. Hall and F. C. Skeg, Esq., librarians. The other members elected on the Council were—Dr. B. Babington, Dr. Burne, T. W. Chevalier, Esq., Dr. Gairdner, R. D. Grainger, Esq., J. Hammerton, Esq., Dr. F. B. Hawkins, Dr. R. Lee, G. Macilwain, Esq., J. Sweetman, Esq.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

FEBRUARY 17th.—Mr. Jopling explained the peculiar properties of two newly invented instruments; one, by a simple arrangement, producing the ellipse; the other, already noticed, as describing the Ionic spiral. The time usually devoted to discussions was occupied in a thorough investigation of the advantages ascribed to these inventions, which merited general approbation; and the thanks of the Institution were accordingly voted to Mr. Jopling. 24th.—A paper on "generating ellipses," illustrated by drawings, was presented and read. The author, Mr. Jopling, particularly instanced the case of setting out large elliptic arches—a tedious and difficult operation—which he has endeavoured to simplify.

A conversation on the subject of roads ensued. The question discussed was, "What materials, durability and cheapness considered, are the best for the roads in clay countries, particularly about London?" Mr. MacNeil presented a specimen of paving which he had lately tried near London, and which forms a substantial foundation for roads over clayey soils. It is composed of gravel stones cemented together, and is used as a substratum before the application of the surface road-metal. Improvements are much to be desired on the metropolitan roads, where defects in expenditure, construction, and management, are so eminently conspicuous: and it is in the above-mentioned localities that art must counteract natural disadvantages, to render uniformly perfect our internal communications, now become the test of our civilisation, and the bond of our social and political union.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, Feb. 24.—Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair. His Majesty Francis King of Naples, and the Prince Royal of Prussia, were elected Honorary Fellows; T. R. G. Bourke, Esq. Secretary to the Danish legation, now in London, was admitted a foreign member. His Grace Hugh Duke of Northumberland, K.G., Sir John Webb, M.D. and others, were severally elected Fellows. A letter from Count Ludolf was read, which intimated that the King of Naples had ordered a copy of the *Flora Napolitana*, and other botanical works, to be presented in his majesty's name to the Society. A paper touching several medicinal plants, which lay on the table, was read: another paper was also read on the esculent root of *stachys palustris*, in which the author, Mr. Houlton, suggests the specific name of *tuberosa* as more appropriate than that of *palustris*, from the tubers attached to its roots.

Mr. Frost made some observations on a numerous collection of medicinal plants exhibited at the meeting by Mr. Aiton, of the King's Gardens at Kew, amongst which was *brucea antidysenterica*, once supposed to yield the angustura bark.

THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY.

We yesterday took a hurried glance at this praiseworthy institution (now opened for 1829), in which we noticed a number of very ingenious mechanical inventions, some striking improvements in manufactures, and other exhibitions well worthy of the public attention. At present we have not leisure for a particular account of these productions; but we shall not neglect their due notice.

FRENCH SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN EGYPT.

[The following are extracts of a letter from M. Le Normand, dated Thebes, Nov. 25, 1829, relative to the scientific expedition in Egypt.]

"We arrived yesterday at Syout, now the capital of Upper Egypt, where there are many ugly mosques, built in the modern taste, and a great appearance of life and activity. The most remarkable thing is a cemetery, which is as well arranged, and as clean as the city is dirty and black. In the mountains are several large subterranean monuments, which, however, are nearly decayed, and can make no impression after those of Beni-Hassan." M. Lenormand then goes on to state, that the country of Thebes has a much more favourable aspect than is generally supposed, and though in Europe it is looked upon as a frightful desert, the vegetation is rich and varied, and the villages are very populous. The day after his departure from Syout, he reached the village of Saoudgy, and, with the other members of the expedition, went to visit the owner of the principal house in the place. He gives the following account of his visit:—

"We were rather astonished at the number of servants, and with the appearance of luxury which the house exhibited: but the worthy Turk was so drunk on our arrival, that we did not think it worth while to use much ceremony with him. He certainly took our behaviour in

good part, and made himself still more drunk; he would not let us go away till two o'clock in the morning, after we had partaken of an excellent supper. The next day we went to the little town of Akmin, where there are a few antiquities."

On the 14th the expedition reached Girgeh, but did not visit the ruins of Abydos. M. Le N. proceeds:—"The magnificent portico at Denderah, before which we arrived on the 10th, is not the most beautiful monument in Egypt, but still it may vie with the Pharaonic wonders, constructed nearly 2000 years previously; and we were enabled to distinguish the parts which shew that it was connected with the decline of the arts in Egypt. An edifice, however, constructed in the most colossal proportions of Roman edifices, at the period when Egypt had passed from the dominion of the Persians to that of the Macedonians, and was about to submit to the yoke of the Romans, and then to perish entirely, is an object worthy of admiration."

"The ruins of Coptos and Apollinopolis Parva, occupy a space of about six leagues in circumference, circumscribed by two chains of mountains, which divide into two unequal parts a majestic river, and in the distance are seen masses of columns and gigantic ruins. In the midst of the plain are two columns, the highest of which has acquired celebrity under the name of the Colossus of Memnon. There are several subterranean monuments; and in one of the valleys are the tombs of the kings, known by the name of Biban-el-Malouk. To the left, two miserable villages partially cover the imposing remains of Louqsor (Luxor) and Karnak. A last heap of ruins, nearer the mountain, indicates the extreme point of the ancient city, the circuit of which could not have been less than that of Paris. The wrecks of this city caused us much surprise and interest. Every where else the ancient Egyptians appear to have been a mild, peace-loving, and, above all, theological people; here, however, they have the aspect of warlike giants, and seem to have been of giant strength. The large monuments of Thebes seem almost all to belong to one series of time, that which followed the expulsion of the pastoral inhabitants, about 2,000 years B.C. Such of the monuments as we are inclined to think approach the nearest to this event by their date, look rather like restorations than original erections. This first pacific epoch has for apogee the reign of Mæris, so celebrated for his numerous works of public utility, and whose mild and expressive physiognomy, delineated with such grace upon the monuments, corresponds exactly with the idea which history has given to us."

"The epoch of Mæris is certainly not one in which the most astonishing conceptions of art were developed; but it was one remarkable for the most perfect works. Every thing achieved during this reign was executed in the most graceful and beautiful manner; and the same character of simple perfection was maintained until the reign of Mandouée, inclusive. This king appears to have been the first victorious monarch of Egypt after its restoration."

"The *chef-d'œuvre* of the historical bas-reliefs of Thebes is the return of Mandouée after his conquests, sculptured upon the outside of the palace of Karnak. The king is in his car, drawn by two beautiful horses, and followed by the principal chiefs of his army, who are preceded by the chiefs of the vanquished, in chains. He advances towards Egypt, which is indicated by a transversal representation of the Nile, just as the Greeks would probably have

done in their best days on a similar occasion. On the other side of the river the priests and the military chiefs are advancing in two lines; the former bowing to the king, and presenting nosegays of lotus, and the others with their arms raised, as a sign of joy. If a cast of this bas-relief were to be sent to France, a great alteration would take place in the ideas which have been formed there relative to Egyptian art: for never were dignity of representation, correctness of movements, or the monumental disposition of the masses, executed with finer effect. It is biblical sculpture, which has all the majesty of the prophecies, and almost the truth of Homer.

"It was in the reign of one of the predecessors of Mandoufe that those immense monuments were constructed which made our soldiers clap their hands on their approach to the eternal city. Art lost somewhat of the elegance which characterised it during the reign of Mœris; but it maintained itself to a remarkable degree until the time of Aménophis II. The monuments of this period have been much worse treated than the others by time. There now only exist the irregular ruins of a large palace, which he built on the western bank, and the most ancient part of the palace of Louqsor, with some colossal pillars. Enough, however, remains to enable us to fix the reign of this prince as the intermediate point between the finished and graceful style of Mœris and the colossal conceptions of Sesostris.

"The appearance of the pyramids has something really frightful, and one cannot help experiencing a painful sensation on seeing them. We seem for a time to labour under a painful dream,—to exceed, in spite of ourselves, the bounds of human imagination, and to succumb to an overwhelming power, such as the sun of these climates. These gigantic creations of the last of the Egyptian conquerors, up to Medinet-Abou alone prove a most gratifying fact,—that Egyptian art was carried to the greatest degree of splendour by pacific princes, liberators of territory, and that these monuments were destroyed by the conquerors."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

Oxford, February 29.—On Thursday the following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—W. Ricketts, Fellow, Merton College; H. H. Dodgson, Student, Hon. H. T. L. Coxy, Rev. J. A. Wright, Christ Church; Rev. G. M. Drummond, Balliol College; Rev. R. Buller, Oriel College.

Bachelors of Arts.—E. Holden, Corpus Christi College, Grand Comptroller; W. Perfect, Magdalen Hall; G. Hill, Trinity College; C. Wells, Fellow, New College.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

MARCH 5th.—The most numerously attended meeting of the season took place on Thursday; the President in the chair. A paper was read, entitled "Anatomical description of the foot of a Chinese female," by Bransby B. Cooper, Esq., communicated by Dr. Roget. A model of this foot, and the skeleton, were exhibited: it is the first ever brought to England, and, undoubtedly, one of the greatest (great because it is so small) anatomical curiosities we have seen. In a subsequent No. a detailed description of it will be given.

The ballot for Captain Phillips, which has excited considerable interest in the scientific world lately, came on.* At its close the gallant captain was declared elected by a great majority. Amongst the fellows present, we noticed Captain Parry, Captain Franklin,

* Some persons charged the gallant captain with having been guilty of plagiarism in certain nautical inventions,—a rudder, capstan, &c.; the credit of which, we presume, must now be allowed to him.—Ed.

Sir Edward Codrington, Dr. Richardson, and many other eminent individuals.

Dec. 11th.—A paper was read, entitled, "on a method of comparing the light of the sun with that of the fixed stars." By William Hyde Wollaston, M.D., V.P., F.R.S., &c.

In the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1767 a suggestion is thrown out by Mr. Michell, that a comparison between the light received from the sun and any of the fixed stars might furnish data for estimating their relative distances; but no such direct comparison had been attempted. Dr. Wollaston was led to infer, from some observations which he made in the year 1799, that the direct light of the sun is about one million times more intense than that of the full moon, and therefore very many million times greater than that of all the fixed stars taken collectively. In order to compare the light of the sun with that of a star, he took as an intermediate object of comparison the light of a candle reflected from a small bulb about a quarter of an inch in diameter, filled with quicksilver, and seen by one eye through a lens of two inches focus, at the same time that the star or the sun's image, placed at a proper distance, was viewed by the other eye through a telescope. The mean of various trials seemed to shew that the light of Sirius is equal to that of the sun seen in a glass bulb one-tenth of an inch in diameter, at the distance of 210 feet; or that they are in the proportion of one to ten thousand millions: but as nearly one-half of the light is lost by reflection, the real proportion between the light from Sirius and the sun is not greater than that of one to twenty thousand millions. If the annual parallax of Sirius be half a second, corresponding to a distance of 625,481 times that of the sun from the earth, its diameter would be 3.7 times that of the sun, and its light 13.8 times as great. The distance at which the sun would require to be viewed so that its brightness might be only equal to that of Sirius, would be 141,421 times its present distance; and, if still in the ecliptic, its annual parallax in longitude would be nearly 3"; but if situated at the same angular distance from the ecliptic as Sirius is, it would have an annual parallax in latitude of 18".

Another paper was read, entitled "Experiments to determine the difference in the length of the second's pendulum in the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and in Mr. Browne's house in London, in which Capt. Kater's experiments were made." By Captain Edward Sabine, of the Royal Artillery, Secretary R.S.

The experiments of which an account is given in this paper were made in compliance with a request of the Council of the Royal Society, in December 1827, that Capt. Sabine would ascertain the difference in the number of vibrations of a pendulum at Mr. Browne's house and at the Greenwich Observatory. The author gives a description of the instruments used in the observations, the first series of which were made in Mr. Browne's house, from the 17th to the 20th of March inclusive, and gave as the mean result 859736.38 vibrations in a mean solar day. A reduction is here introduced, derived from some experiments made on the difference which takes place in the times of vibration in vacuo and in air; the number of vibrations in the former case being, under the same circumstances as in the observations, 9.62 per diem less than in the latter. A corresponding series, made at Greenwich in May, gave as the mean 859739.93 vibrations; thus indicating an acceleration of 0.55 vibrations per diem. But the difference of latitude and of height between the two stations would have

led us, from theory, to expect a total retardation of 0.38 vibrations in the same time. From a second set of observations at Greenwich, the diurnal acceleration appeared to be 0.82 vibrations. Taking the mean of this and the former result, it appears that the total amount of the discordance between theory and experiment is 0.91 vibrations per diem. The stations are conveniently situated for verifying the existence of this anomaly; and its magnitude is such as to preclude all uncertainty as to its existence. With regard to its cause, the author is confirmed in the opinions he formerly entertained on this subject.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

MARCH 5th. Henry Hallam, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Dr. Meyrick exhibited two ancient British shields of bronze, from the collection at Goodrich Court, Herefordshire. One was the *tarion* or clasher, sometimes termed *ace*, from being flat, and of the kind used by the inhabitants of this island prior to the Roman invasion; it was held at arm's-length in the hand; the umbro, forming the cavity for that purpose, is ornamented with nineteen concentric circles, interspersed with little knobs: this was dug up from a turf bog in the vicinity of Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire. The other was an imitation of the Roman scutum, and thence called *ymgwid*; of an oblong form, and having an ornament reaching its whole length, affording the same convenience for holding it as the former. The artistic work, if such it may be called, is highly corroborative of the derivation of its name, as it was evidently the work of an uncivilised people, desirous of rivaling the polished elegancies of their conquerors. This was found in the river Witham, Lincolnshire. These very curious specimens of antiquity were accompanied by a letter, in which Dr. Meyrick shewed how much confirmatory evidence to the testimony of the Greek and Latin authors might be gleaned from the language of the ancient Britons, while extravagant fancies are avoided, and etymology confined within prudent limits.

The reading of a paper on the remains of St. Mary's Abbey, York, by the Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, was commenced.

A copy of the new volume of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy was presented by that body, and thanks were ordered to be returned for the same.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 12.—John Beatty, M.D. in the chair.—It was stated that Mr. Lynch would commence his lectures before the Society on Tuesday, the 3d of March. Amongst other proceedings it was

Resolved.—That a committee be appointed to take into consideration, and to report upon the practicability of establishing, under the auspices of the Society, an annual exhibition of specimens of the manufactures and productions of Ireland, conformable to the plan which has long been adopted in Paris and in other capital cities of the Continent; and to suggest such measures as might facilitate the arrangement, together with the estimates of the probable expenses attendant thereon.

Resolved.—That the following members do constitute the above committee, together with the vice-presidents and secretaries:—Edward Houghton, William Willans, John Patten, Hugh Hamill, Richard Griffith, Robert Hutton, R. B. Bryan, Esqrs., Dr. D'Olier, and Dr. Wall, with power to add to their number.

A letter from Mr. Hamilton Rowan was read, resigning his situation as a member of the Committee of Natural Philosophy.

The following letter was read from Ambrose O'Kelly, Esq. of Tycooly House, Castle Blakeney, on the subject of a human body found about seven years since near his residence; for which communication and the gift accompanying it, the thanks of the Society were ordered

to be returned, and preparations to be made for receiving it in their museum.

Twynchy House, February 10, 1855.

Sir,—I trust that the curious nature of the intelligence which I have to communicate, will be a sufficient excuse for my troubling you with this letter. A tenant of my father's about seven years ago discovered in a bog immediately near this, a human body, which, from the circumstances I shall just relate, I take to be of an extraordinary antiquity, and which affords a remarkable instance of the preserving qualities of peat—as it is as entire and perfect as I believe any Egyptian mummy can possibly be. The poor man cutting turf one day on a bog near his house, found the implement he worked with impeded by some hard substance, which on examination he found to be a human limb. Conceiving it must be the remains of some person recently murdered, he immediately ran to acquaint the family; but on the first view it was evident it must have lain there considerably upwards of a century, perhaps many, many centuries. The bog in which it was found is a small detached spot, surrounded by pasture land, and which the oldest men residing near the place say they have always heard had been time immemorial thoroughly drained and used for cutting turf on. I mention this as, coupled with the fact which I myself witnessed, of its being nine or ten feet from the surface, I think it puts its antiquity beyond all possibility of doubt. Though I believe bog grows or swells, it must under any circumstances be at a very slow rate; this bog could not have grown for upwards of a century, as it is, and, in the memory of the oldest men in this neighbourhood, always has been, completely intersected with drains. Yet it must have grown many feet since this body was interred; for two oak posts or poles, somewhat thicker than a man's arm, about six feet long, pointed apparently with a hatchet, and placed, standing obliquely, one at each foot, by way of monument, were overgrown by the bog four feet at least. It was plain that the place must have been formerly a wood, as we could discern the nuts and cope quite perfect in the turf, but of course completely rotten; one of the posts was also rotten, but the other perfectly sound. But the most extraordinary thing of all was his dress, which could not have been in use but in the most savage times of Ireland: it consisted of a cow-hide (I think dressed) formed in the shape of a tunic, with the hair towards the skin, and tied by a band of twisted sally rods round his neck. This hide I have yet; but though when first taken up it was perfect, from the dampness of the grave in which he was placed a second time, and where he has now been seven years, it is almost in shreds; however, I think it might be sewed together. He appeared when stretched at full length to be of gigantic size; but on being measured, proved about six feet. He is of a robust make, and apparently about thirty years of age; his teeth are all perfect, as are his hair (which is of a dark red colour), his lips, tongue, ears, fingers, &c.; his skin and flesh are perfectly hard and dry, like tanned leather; his beard is quite observable, and seems about a fortnight's growth. It is only a fortnight or three weeks since I had him taken up last: from the damp and mooriness of the place about him, his skin has become dingy and discoloured; the hair, too, is loosened from his head, and the features somewhat defaced; but in every other respect he is as before; and even the most fleshy parts, and those which would be expected soonest to waste, are perfectly sound and firm.

Should the members of the Dublin Society, who take an interest in these matters, and to whom I beg you will mention these particulars, be of opinion that he is worthy a place in their museum, I shall feel happy in giving him for that purpose.

The Society adjourned to Thursday, the 19th February.

KING'S COLLEGE.

THE site of this building is finally determined: the edifice will stand on the eastern wing of Somerset House, with entrances from the Quadrangle and from the Strand. To acquire the latter, the committee have already purchased the three houses in that street adjoining to Strand Lane; and Mr. Smirke is diligently occupied in completing the designs for the accommodation of both the collegians and scholars.

Specimen of the Cherokee Newspaper described in the Literary Gazette of last Saturday.

OF THE LAW TESS JOLAGP WOLAH-
WBY GAYZ L- LHWKS DHTKIWR-
A OALVOC KEZI OJ JHWOKERJIS
OACTGAYZ SPJON OALVAY GAYZ
ZTAKSALALASHAGALST GYSELA
SHZL OAT JW GAYZ SHAGOLAY

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

On Monday evening, Mr. Westmacott delivered his third lecture: it was on the Elgin Marbles.

Mr. Westmacott introduced his subject by remarking, that the nice regard paid to proportion, and the more elegant in nature, by the school of Polykleitos, acted as a salutary check to the unbounded genius of Phidias. Speaking of the Temple of Minerva and its embellishments, constructed by Phidias and his associates, Alcmanes, Agoracritus, and others, the lecturer observed, with much truth and elegance of expression, that in contemplating these extraordinary examples, there is an irresistible admission of their excellence: of all human productions they approach nearest to perfection, with the least appearance of art. Mr. Westmacott was next led to a description of the statues—Theseus, Ceres, Proserpine, and the Fates. Touching upon the draperies of the groups, he stated that they were so conducted, that in whatever situation the sun was, their effect must have been decided; the flute of the concave to the boundary of the masses being carried beyond the square of the surface, whilst in the divisions which played within the masses, where subordinate shadow or half-tint and variety were required, free access was allowed to the light. The lecturer's description of the statue of Iliuss was very spirited. In the whole range of Grecian art, no example displays so powerful an instance of knowledge of the human figure, more judgment in the choice of position, for the development of its physical elements, or more skill in execution—surpassing all contemporaneous or posterior productions—than this statue. In its contemplation, art is forgotten in the power and truth of the imitation. No statue in the antique offers stronger motives for reflection: the man of experience, observation, and study, on a calm consideration of this statue, will find in each limb and muscle the most consummate practical skill, subservient to the influence of mind; whilst he that delights in execution will see a laborious material treated with the ductility of the most plastic substance. Some remarks on proportion in general then followed: in developing the standard, the lecturer observed, that it would be found the general result only of the proportions discovered in nature, and not a fixed measure for particular observance; beauty and character, which depend upon action or circumstance, not being reducible to rule: thus are to be found statues of wholly different characters which vary scarcely a minute in their lengths, whilst no rule whatever can possibly be deduced from their girths; as in the Apollino at Florence—the Apollo Sauroctonus—the Apollo Belvidere—the Mercury of the Vatican—the Discobolus, &c. &c. After a minute description of the Panathenæic Frieze, the lecturer concluded by requesting the students to make these marbles the subject of their study and reflection, as eminently deserving of both.

The chair on this evening was taken by Mr. Hilton, the keeper, as matter of course; Sir Thomas Lawrence being confined through indisposition. The auditory was numerous.

ARTISTS' CONVERSAZIONE.

THERE are many pleasant and useful associations in our vast London, which, though of a public nature, have yet so much of the privacies of society allied to them, that even the newspaper press (that universal and omnipotent Paul Pry) does not notice their meetings or divulge

their doings. Among these has long existed a Conversazione, including the principal artists and amateurs of the day and the President of the Royal Academy, which holds, during the season of the year when the inhabitants of town confess to seeing one another, monthly association at the Freemason's Tavern, "to talk of this, and then of that," hear what is going on, criticise what has been, and tell what is about to be, done in the fine arts. This body is limited to seventy in number; and it may readily be imagined, that the immense increase of our school of art—the multitude whom encouragement has added to the previous ranks of professors, must have made that which was sufficient before, insufficient for the reception of all the candidates deserving of election. The result has been the establishment of a second Conversazione Club, on similar principles to the first, and also to consist of seventy members. This junior body has, in a short period, at once struck root and shot up, not only into the vigour of very interesting monthly meetings, but into the full growth of an anniversary dinner, which was observed at Serles' Hotel on Saturday, 21st ult. The company, about fifty, enjoyed a cheerful and convivial day,—Mr. Clint being in the chair, and warming into its duties like a clever artist, who takes a quiet and deliberate view of his subject before he handles it thoroughly, and works it up to its full effects. Good humour and harmony prevailed throughout the evening; appropriate toasts were given, and acknowledgments returned. Among the artists present we observed Mr. Cooper, Mr. Behnes, Mr. Stanfield, Mr. Hofland, Mr. Burnet, and others of younger fame, but whose delightful enthusiasm, combined with ability and conduct on this occasion, impressed us strongly with the idea that in many of them we had met for the first time with the future ornaments of our national arts.

BRITISH GALLERY.

No. 398. *Morning*. G. Barret.—A beautiful and Claude-like effect both in composition and in character.

No. 354. *The Interior of a Kitchen*. W. A. Netscher.—Perfectly Flemish in its conception and finish. An admirable specimen in its way.

No. 356. *Scene near the Falls of the Conwy*. F. Danby, A.R.A.—Mr. Danby has imparted a solemn dignity to this interesting scene by the simplicity of his colouring, and the depth of his tones.

No. 199. *A Study*. T. S. Good.—Excellent.

No. 168. *Italian Boy*. R. Edmonstone.—We like every part of this very characteristic work but the hat; and it is not this hat in particular with which we quarrel, but wish every hat upon canvass that has not previously been kicked and beaten into any shape but its original one. Even the dignity of portraiture (if it have any) will be lost by placing a modern hat on the head; and every expedient ought to be resorted to, to get rid of this unpicturesque appendage.

No. 145. *Shipping by Moonlight*. J. B. Crome.—This, and No. 159, by the same artist, are very clever examples of variety in moonlight effects. They partake in no small degree of the style and character which distinguished the works of Vanderneer.

No. 147. *The Black Knight, and the Clerk of Copmanhurst*. H. Fradelle.—The good-fellowship of this scene is very successfully represented. Perhaps the colour is a little too monotonous.

No. 151. *Rue de la Grosse Horloge, Rouen*.

C. R. Stanley.—If the gaiety of the *Boulevards* by this artist attracted our attention by its locality and sunlight, the present performance is rendered no less worthy of regard by its combination of some of the most picturesque forms in buildings and groups that we have ever seen in works of this class.

No. 187. *The Angels announcing the birth of Christ*. John St. John Long.—This picture is placed in so elevated a situation, that we can judge only of its general character. The subject appears to be treated with an originality and effect highly creditable to the talents of the artist.

No. 211. *Landscape; Moonlight*. T. C. Hoffland.—With an effect and a character all his own, there wants only a figure or two in the foreground to make this performance one of the best samples of Mr. Hoffland's pencil.

No. 79. *Thalia*. Mrs. Pearson.—Exceedingly creditable to the talents of the fair artist; and we think possessing much of the style of Rosalba.

No. 132. *The Conflict*. H. Singleton.—If, in addition to the other excellent qualities of this highly respectable artist, he had but, in early life, avoided the fatal error of substituting, for a constant reference to nature, an ideal style, which, however fluent and elegant, palls upon frequent repetition, we have no doubt that he would have been one of the most distinguished painters that the English or any other school ever produced. "The Conflict" is a fine specimen of his powers.

No. 139. *The False Parcel*. W. Kidd.—Full of character and expression, and executed with great facility and skill. We would, however, suggest to our painters of familiar life not to take so frequently for their subject the mischievous tricks of children. Example is a powerful teacher; and these pictorial lessons may be pernicious.

No. 254. *The Portrait of John Soane, Esq. R.A.*, painted by order of the Directors of the British Institution, as one of its most liberal benefactors. J. Jackson, R.A.—Although the general introduction of portraits into the exhibition of an institution expressly founded for the encouragement of an English school of design, would defeat the purpose of its establishment, we are so far from thinking that, under the circumstances of the case, this fine portrait of Mr. Soane is out of its place, that we wish a portion of the Gallery were appropriated to the reception of the portraits of the other liberal benefactors, whose domestic collections afford the best proof of the zeal with which, by their yearly purchases, they foster native talent, and contribute to the successful cultivation of the fine arts in this country. The arts are the offspring of the public; but we hope that the lines of the fable will never be justly applicable to them:

"The child whom many fathers share,
Will seldom know a father's care."

The sculpture in the present exhibition at the British Gallery offers little that is striking or novel; with the exception of No. 542, *Cupid and Psyche*, E. Physick, which is full of the tender blandishment belonging to the subject. No. 541, *The Dying Warrior*, P. Tatham, may be a good study; but appears to us to have the Michael-Angelo twist, or to be placed in one of those impossible postures in which that great man sometimes represented his figures. No. 540, *A Persian*, W. Sievier, is striking and imposing, both in attitude and in costume.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Plates to illustrate Bishop Heber's Journal of Travels in India. Murray.

IN the notices of this most estimable and deeply-lamented person's interesting Journal, which appeared in the 578th and 579th Nos. of the *Literary Gazette*, (pages 97 and 118 of our last volume) we expressed our admiration of the beautiful plates (engraved by Mr. Finden, principally from the bishop's drawings, but a few from those of Mrs. Heber,) with which that Journal was adorned. The plates are now published in a distinct and separate form; and upon looking at them again, we not only do not see any thing to induce us to retract our former judgment, but, on the contrary, we are still more strongly impressed with the taste and feeling which they display. Besides a large map of India, there are ten plates, viz.: "Ghat between Calcutta and Barrackpore," "Janghera," "Travelling Dāk," "Travellers and Peasantry in the Kingdom of Oude," "Nundedivi," "Umeer," "Entrance to the Cave of Elephanta," "Gorabunder," "View from the Cliff above Kennerly," and "View in the Deccan."

The Destruction of Pharaoh and his Host. Painted by Danby; engraved by Phillips.

IN the sublime and terrific, this performance is a wonderful example of Mr. Danby's talents at a former period; and our remarks upon the painting may be found in the *Gazette* of that time. As a print it exhibits a scarcely less grand and imposing character than when aided by the power of colour; and the supernatural light which was introduced in the painting, appears to us either to have been removed, toned down, or otherwise modified; so as not to look like accident, as we remember it did at the time of its exhibition. The character of the subject has so much of the Deluge, that we think a first glance of the picture will convey the idea of its being a representation of that mighty event: there is so much of distress and horror in the fore-ground figures, and such a wild swell of the waters, that we do not receive the impression of "the horse and his rider," or rather of Pharaoh and his host, being doomed to destruction, and imagine that the pursued multitude must also come in for a share of the pursuers' fate. This remark may be only a matter of opinion, and cannot be meant as an objection to a work of art like this, which is only inferior to Mr. Danby's extraordinary painting from the book of Revelations. The engraver, Mr. Phillips, has ably followed up the prototype in all its characteristics of detail and effect.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

LA PÉROUSE: CAPTAIN P. DILLON.

OUR readers will not be displeased to hear what has been the effect of our publications respecting the discovery of the wreck of La Pérouse, and our very recent appeal to the French government on behalf of Captain Peter Dillon. From the *Moniteur* we learn that the King of France has graciously received the articles which Captain Dillon brought to Europe, and which proved too clearly that the unfortunate Pérouse had been wrecked, and perished on one of the Yannicolo Islands. The East India Company having liberally relinquished all claim to the expense of fitting-out Captain D. for his second voyage, his Majesty has farther pronounced him to be entitled to the reward of his discovery, offered so long ago as February 1791, and conferred on him the dignity of Knight of the Legion of

Honour. The pecuniary reward consists of an indemnity of 10,000 francs for personal costs during the voyage, and of a pension of 4000 francs per annum for the discovery. M. Chaigean, a Frenchman who accompanied Captain Dillon on the expedition, has also received the insignia of the Legion of Honour. It is very pleasing to record such distinctions for meritorious exertions; and we are the more satisfied, because we are assured that our researches into the arms (through the kindness of Sir W. Betham), and their being engraved in the *Literary Gazette*, were the original causes which led to this just and gratifying result.

MUSIC.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MUSIC.

THE Lent performances, under the able direction of Mr. Hawes (whose spirited conduct has driven the licenser from his extraordinary claims for fees), commenced last night at Covent Garden Theatre, and are to be continued at both houses, alternately, on the Wednesday and Friday evenings. Of the first of them we can take no cognizance, as our sheet must go to press before its earliest bar has been played; and our press must remain hard at work for hours after the last note has been sung. But we might anticipate from the bill of fare a high musical treat: Mehul's oratorio of Joseph and his Brethren, for the first time; a selection from Handel's ever fresh and delightful *Acis and Galatea*; and a fine miscellaneous act—the whole embodying the talents of Braham, Phillips, Knyvett, Horncastle, Atkins, Madame Schutz, Mrs. W. Knyvett, Miss Love, Miss Goward, and other eminent performers, both vocal and instrumental.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Memory of Past Recollections: a Song.

The Words by James O'Connell, Esq. Composed by H. Schwieso. London, Schwieso.

WE have to notice this as a very striking composition. The first part is extremely sweet and touching, and the second bold and spirited. The theme is renewed with the words, "him his country deploras," in the most beautiful style. In short, we have not lately heard a piece of song music more delightful to our taste.

If the Heart but truly love. Words by T. H. Stirling, Esq.; the Music by C. Walther. London, Lee and Lee.

THIS light and pleasing air has been sung by Braham, and was also given with much beauty at the last Melodists' Club meeting by Stansbury. It belongs to that class which must always be listened to with very agreeable emotion, and which seeks not to excite stronger feelings. The composer's name is new to us; but if he goes on as he has begun, he will soon be popular at our firesides.

DRAMA.

KING'S THEATRE.

ON Saturday, as we announced, *Il Conte Ori* was represented at this theatre, or, we should rather say, after seeing it, misrepresented; for it was a sad concatenation of accident and incapacities. We give the manager credit for his wish to produce a novelty; but we cannot help impeaching his judgment for producing any thing in so crude, so imperfect, so wretched a shape as this unfortunate opera. Monticelli, to whom the principal part was assigned, was indisposed; and an apology, by no means unnecessary, preceded her appearance. Indeed, it is to be regretted that there are no doubles at a house like this, for performers so apt to

fall sick as these foreigners, unaccustomed to our cold, thick, and foggy atmosphere, are: the stoutest native lungs have been tried by the late vicissitudes of weather; and it is not surprising that individuals from a warmer, clearer, and softer climate (especially possessing the organisation of vocalists), should suffer great inconvenience from the sudden changes in the weather—from bad to worse. There is, therefore, more reason to provide against public disappointments from this cause, instead of there being no provision whatever. M. Laporte, we believe, will plead his exertions in procuring several first-rate singers (Pisaroni, Sontag, Malibran,) which do not leave him the means of engaging an efficient company in the lower walks, to supply the places of hoarse basses, indisposed sopranos, and pettish absentees; but still we must consider this to be a defect in management, and one which almost nightly leads to the utter spoiling of the opera. Under the circumstances of the performance of Saturday, we offer no opinion upon the demerits of the composition or execution. Suffice it to say, that the whole *dramatis personæ* were eminently successful in murdering every thing that was good in the music, and marring the little we could discover that was dramatic in the plot. A Signora Specchi made her *début*. She sports a very pretty face, but a very bad leg. Her voice is a mezzo soprano of a weak quality; but she appears to have more science than some older stagers. For want of preparation, in spite of the bluster and baton of Bochsa, the concerted pieces, and especially the choruses, in which the strength, such as it is, of *Cote Ori* consists, were poorly done; and, altogether, we never passed a more flat and dreary night, even at the King's Theatre. To add to the annoyance, many very shabbily dressed persons were in the pit: we are no sticklers for very strict fashion in dressing for the opera; but a shirt clean within the last fortnight ought to be insisted upon as a *sine qua non* previous to admission.

Middle Blais is announced to be engaged, but in consequence of her indisposition and that of Galli, the *Donna di Lago*, advertised for Tuesday and Thursday, could not be produced, and the house was shut.

DRURY LANE.

Measure for Measure has been revived at Drury Lane, with Miss Phillips as *Isabella*, and Mr. Young as *Angelo*; and on the same night, a Mr. Pemberton made his first appearance in London at the rival house, as *Virginus*. As we were bound by gallantry to give the preference to the lady, we did not see the gentleman, and shall, therefore, take the opportunity of his enacting *Shylock* next week, to deliver our opinion concerning him. Shakespeare is the touchstone. Should he succeed in *Shylock*, we shall not care about his failure in *Virginus*, if, indeed, it be a failure, as some of our contemporaries assert. With regard to Miss Phillips we will only say, that we think either she or the management has been singularly unfortunate in the choice of parts. The youth and delicacy of Miss Phillips render her totally unfit for the personation of such characters as *Mrs. Haller*, *Mrs. Beverley*, and *Isabella*; and we think it no small tribute to her talent that she has been even tolerated in them. The gentle *Desdemona*, the innocent *Virginia*, the *Claudia*, that she has made her own—such are the portraits to which her form and her features can give life,

* But idleness, caprice, jealousies, and profligacy, are also but too common causes of absence.

theirs are the feelings which she can understand and express. At present, she is as unfit for *Isabella* as she is for *Lady Macbeth* or *Queen Katharine*.

FRENCH PLAYS.

MADAME J. COLON-LAFONT has departed, and Perlet has come. On Monday night he made his *début* for this season, and throughout the entertainments of the evening gave the audience ample cause to enjoy his re-appearance on the scene.

MR. MORTON.—As we are ever most anxious to avoid any erroneous statement, so are we equally desirous, when we have been betrayed into any error, to make the earliest and best reparation in our power. We are, therefore, prompt to say, that on a more close investigation of the question at issue between the rival theatres, relative to the *Battle of Pullova*, than we could give it last week, we are completely convinced that no charge or allegation of the slightest kind could with truth be made against the conduct of Mr. Morton. The whole circumstances of the transaction have been fully explained to us; and while we bear this willing testimony to that gentleman's perfect integrity throughout the affair, we beg at the same time to express our regret that any thing unjust towards him or painful to his feelings should have found its way into our columns.

VARIETIES.

Silk Manufactures of France.—The French minister of commerce has ordered a large quantity of silk ribbands, and other silk goods, of British manufacture to be purchased and laid before a committee, who are to report upon the quality and prices of them, with a view to ascertain the comparative rates of the production in the two countries.

Anatomy.—It is said that ministers will allow Mr. Warburton to bring a bill into Parliament to put our anatomical schools upon a similar footing with those of France in regard to facilities in procuring subjects. It is full time that something were done.

Raphael.—It is asserted that the celebrated Raphael of the Louvre, Christ and his Disciple, or, according to others, the Artist himself and his Fencing-Master (a strange discrepancy of opinion), has been, at some unknown time, abstracted from its frame, and a modern copy substituted. The picture has been valued at 20,000*l.*; and it is surmised that it has found a hiding-place somewhere in England.

The Kemble Family.—We hear that this admired work of poor Harlowe is also missing at the present moment; whether it has fled, nobody can tell; but it is not among the treasures left behind by Rowland Stevenson; and Mr. Walsh declares that he is inconsolable about it.

Bequest.—The newspapers state that the worthy and grateful composer Mr. Shield bequeathed a violin to the King, which his Majesty graciously accepted, but made a liberal present to the widow of the donor.

Thomas Tunnel.—An application has been made to the Duke of Wellington for an aid of 250,000*l.* from government to complete this great undertaking; his Grace has asked for estimates of the whole expense and probable profits, before he can entertain the petition.

Cold in Rome.—The cold in Rome during part of the last month was more intense than it has been known for a long period at the same

season of the year. On the 12th ult., the thermometer (Réaumur) fell to four degrees below zero; which was equal to the greatest cold in the depth of the winter of 1828.

Mr. Abbott, formerly of Covent Garden Theatre, and lately of the English Theatre in Paris, is getting up an entertainment in that capital, in which, à la Mathews, he is to sustain all the characters.

Divorces in the Netherlands.—From 1815 to 1825, out of 430,000 marriages in the Netherlands, there were 605 divorces. The proportion of divorces to the number of marriages was in the northern provinces as 1 to 327; and in the southern, 1 to 3,317.

Mount Vesuvius.—Letters from Naples of the 10th ult. state, that Vesuvius is much agitated. Large volumes of smoke are seen, and stones are thrown up to a height of 500 or 600 feet; but there is very little lava.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

A second edition of the *Youth and Manhood* of Cyril Thornton is in our last package from Edinburgh; and we have again dipped into that spirited and characteristic novel with fresh pleasure. Some of its scenes are certainly as near those of the great northern master as any with which we are acquainted—not even excepting the graphic and national sketches of Galt.

The author of the *Village Pastor* has in the press a volume of serious tales, entitled, *Clouds and Sunshine*, which, we understand, will very shortly appear.

The Parisian Periodical Press.—According to a very recent return, with a copy of which we have been favoured, there are now published in Paris eleven daily newspapers, of which upwards of 60,000 copies are printed. One of these, the *Moniteur*, is official; another, the *Journal des Maires*, has, we believe, little to do with political discussion; a third, *Le Messager des Chambres*, is semi-official; and five are decidedly liberal; only two, the *Gazette de France* and the *Quotidien*, are anti-constitutional. The literary and scientific papers published daily are eleven in number; and there are daily six papers in which only advertisements are given: so that the total number of daily papers in Paris is twenty-eight. Besides these, there are thirty-two periodical papers which appear at different periods, of from twice a week to once a month.

Mr. Vignoles, Civil Engineer, is preparing for publication *Observations on Railroads and Railway Carriages*. In the press.—A third edition of Montgomery's *Universal Prayer*, &c.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Use's New System of Geology, 8vo. 1*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*.—Miller's (General) *Memoirs*, 3d edition, 2 vols. 8vo. 1*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*.—Mackintosh's *Practice of Physics*, 8vo. 1*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*.—*Yesterday in Ireland*, 3 vols. post 8vo. 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*.—*Carbonaro* (the), by the Duke de Levis, 2 vols. post 8vo. 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*.—*Suchet's Memoirs*, Vol. 1, 8vo. English, 1*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*.—*The Female Character*, by Fiers Shafston, post 8vo. 10*s.* 6*d.*.—*Britain's Guardian Angel*, fcp. 4*s.* 6*d.*.—*Close's Miscellaneous Sermons*, 8vo. 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*.—*Nautilus* (the), 12mo. 6*s.* 6*d.*.—*Shepherd on the Origin of Christianity*, 2 vols. 8vo. 1*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*.—*Faulkner's History of Chelsea*, 40 plates, 2 vols. 8vo. 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1829.

February.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday... 26	From 31. to 39.	30.04 to 29.85
Friday... 27	— 35. — 41.	29.96 — 30.25
Saturday... 28	— 38. — 37.	30.26 — Stat.
March.		
Sunday... 1	— 30. — 34.	30.15 — 30.06
Monday... 2	— 29. — 35.	30.06 — 30.16
Tuesday... 3	— 31. — 39.	30.25 — Stat.
Wednesday 4	— 32. — 41.	30.12 — 30.06

Prevailing wind N.E.
Except the 28th ult., generally cloudy; raining on the 28th ult. Rain fallen, 5 of an inch.

Edinburgh. CHARLES H. ADAMS.
Latitude..... 51° 37' 32" N.
Longitude.... 0 3 51 W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

✱ The pause in almost every line of business which the politics of the hour has occasioned, affects the publishing of books as well as other matters. We are, in consequence, this week a little oppressed with novelties, that we find ourselves able to postpone, without injustice to any subject, our intention of giving an extra half-sheet. The continuation of Thompson's *Gustamala* is the only Review we regret having to defer.

ERRATA.—In our critique on Reymann's German Grammar, p. 148, col. 3, the name of M. Boileau, author of the *Linguist* and other useful works of education, was misprinted *Borlieu*.—In our report of Mr. Aiken's lecture on Ancient Pottery, in No. 630, p. 109, col. 2, line 64, for *Winders road* read *Windus*.

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LE MUSEE NAPOLEON, Vol. XI. and

last, being the Supplement to the Tenth Vol. Musée, so well known and so much sold in England, just published in Paris by Fribot, and in London by Frisley and Wende, High Street, Bloomsbury, at whose House it may be obtained, charged the France as the Shipping, viz. Imperial 8vo. with the Letter, 6s.; Imperial 8vo. vellum paper, with open Letter, printed after 200 Copies were taken off, 9s.; in 4to. vellum paper, before the Letter, printed after 75 Copies, 15s.; in 4to. on India paper, Proof, 18s.

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BOOKS PUBLISHED THIS DAY.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH

MAGAZINE, No. CL. for March 1800. Contents: I. The Assembly of Parliament.—II. Sunset Meditations, by Delta.—III. Cuttings.—IV. The Duke of Wellington and Mr. Peel.—V. First and Last.—VI. The First and Last Crime. James Murray.—VII. The Man-Mountain.—VIII. Sketches of Italy and the Italians, with Remarks on Antiquities and Fine Arts. (Continued.)—IX. The Festival of the Carnival in August; the Game of the Fife, Bagpipes, and the Violon.—X. The Buffette Tapestry in 1788.—XI. The Two Emiles.—XII. The Supremacy of the Church of Rome not acknowledged by the British Christians till the Ninth Century.—X. Telling.—XI. Chapters on Churchyards; Chap. 12. The Grave of the Broken Heart. (Continued.)—XII. Twelve Years' of Military Adventure in Three Quarters of the Globe.—XIII. Nocturnal Ambrosia. No. 41. Printed for William Blackwood, Edinburgh; and T. Cadell, Strand, London.

Biographies of the Court of George IV.—The Honourable Mrs. Charles Lindsay.

LA BELLE ASSEMBLEE for March

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The Fashions for March are exhibited by Four Figures, appropriately coloured and described.

The beautiful Portrait of the Hon. Mrs. Harrington, from a family Miniature, will enrich the April Number.

Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland, and the Most Noble the Marquess Wellesley, were the distinguished Subjects of the January and February Numbers. The following Portraits are in preparation: the Hon. Mrs. Charles Arbuthnot, from a Painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence. Lady Northampton, by Jackson, Esq. Lady Charlotte Bury, by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

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- Articles. Contents.
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- VI.—Memoirs of Volney.
- VII.—Rauzer's History of the Hohenstauffens.
- VIII.—Louis Bonaparte's Answer to Sir W. Scott's History of Napoleon.
- IX.—Language and Literature of Prussia.
- X.—Duke Bernard's Travels in North America.
- XI.—Wine Trade of France.

- Critical Sketches.—French Works.
- XII.—Goussier, Cours de Philosophie.
- XIII.—Musée de Peinture et de Sculpture.
- XIV.—Histoire de l'Ecole Polytechnique.
- XV.—Biographie Universelle, Ancienne et Moderne.
- XVI.—Bausset, Mémoires Académiques, tom. III. et IV.
- XVII.—Albumen Français pour 1800.

Italian Works.

- XVIII.—Gamba, Serie di Testi.
- XIX.—La Fidesca Liguaria.
- German Works.
- XX.—Bittcher's Geschichte der Carthager, nach Quellen.
- XXI.—Pallmeyer's Geschichte des Kayserthums von Traupenstein.

XXII.—German Almanacs for 1800.

Eighty-two Miscellaneous Literary Notices from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russia and Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

A List of Four Hundred and Sixty-nine of the principal New Works published on the Continent, from September to December 1800.

No. VII. will appear in March.

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